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Treasury Buildings, Brisbane.

THE

Work and Wealth

OF

QUEENSLAND

Being a sketch of the Progress and Resources of the Colony and its Daily Life.

ILLUSTRATED.

QUEENSLAND:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY POLE, OUTRIDGE & CO., BRISBANE.

1897.

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PREFACE.

THE year 1897 will be regarded as the historic year of the century. Our great-grandchildren will refer to it as the year of the illustrious commemorative pageants and other celebrations of a more enduring character which marked the Diamond Jubilee of our beloved Queen.

A description of the actual position attained by one of the youngest of the outlying portions of the great Empire over which Queen Victoria has presided for sixty years may, we hope, be deemed a not uninteresting tribute to the general glorification of a reign chiefly remarkable for peaceful triumphs. Some notion of the colossal advancement of the Empire in wealth and industrial activity during this period may be gleaned from the record of that Australian Colony whose name affirms the fact of its being contemporaneous with Her Majesty's beneficent rule.

To present a faithful view of Queensland life, with abundant illustrations of the scenes described, so that any stranger may realise the opportunities, difficulties, hardships, and enjoyments of colonial life, is an undertaking not hitherto attempted. In *The Work and Wealth of Queensland* the publishers claim to present a photograph of the actual working life of one of the greatest producing countries in the world. That the subject is a most interesting one to all classes must be conceded. To the capitalist looking for profitable openings for investment, as well as to the farmer and the artisan—to all in fact who possess the enterprising spirit which has built up the Empire—this volume will suggest pregnant considerations. Is Queensland the veritable land of promise Queenslanders believe it to be? It is this question which the present work attempts to answer, not dogmatically, but by supplying facts and figures, which may enable the reader to form his own conclusions. In the sketch here given of the industries which constitute the wealth of the country, of the partially explored resources which await more advanced conditions for their fuller development, of the occupations of all classes, and of the pastimes which are moulding the tastes of the crescent nation, we have endeavoured by copious illustrations of the daily toil of the people to furnish a presentment of Queensland life which tells its own story. Some portion of the author's sketch has been furnished to the publishers of the *Year Book of Australia* under the title of

"Queensland, its History and Resources;" but the necessary limitations of space in that publication precluded the fuller treatment of the subject which we have been able to afford him.

We desire to acknowledge our obligations to the Surveyor-General of Queensland, Mr. Archibald McDowall, for his kind assistance in placing the Government photographs at our service and for the interest he has taken in this publication; to Mr. W. Lees, who has supervised the work throughout and whose private collection of photographs has been largely drawn upon for the illustrations; as also to Mr. E. H. Murray for his artistic contributions. The photographs here reproduced are chiefly the work of Messrs. Handley & Atkinson and Mr. Lyne Brown (Cairns), of Mr. Poulsen and Mr. Hogg (Brisbane), and the Government Photographer, Mr. Robson—to all of whom we return our sincere thanks. Nor must we fail to acknowledge very heartily our indebtedness to Mr. Richard Newton, the author of the letterpress, for his graphic and spirited treatment of our very interesting theme.

THE PUBLISHERS.

THE

Work and Wealth

OF

QUEENSLAND.

A COUNTRY of vast extent, thoroughly explored, but only just sufficiently developed to reveal the immensity of its latent resources, is an interesting study. Of a partially explored land, however rich it may vaguely loom in promise, it is difficult to recognise the possibilities. Central Africa, for instance, or even New Guinea, whilst dazzling the imagination, are puzzles baffling all forecast. Not till the explorer has done his part and the pioneers immediately succeeding him, having sustained their season of arduous experiment, have created openings for settled industry, can the future of the territory be approximately gauged. Settlement following in their wake makes the unknown land safe and habitable. Men no longer spend their energies in the struggle for existence. Nature, vanquished by the hardihood that would not be repelled or discouraged, consents to yield the necessaries of life, and in a niggardly fashion discloses to the invaders the treasures she has stored in secret. Such disclosures, won only by persistent importunity, are invitations to the whole world. The time then arrives when capital may calculate with some confidence the rewards that await intelligent investment, and the worker recognises the certainty of improving his lot by escaping from the grinding competition of the Old World, and seeking the wider scope of a new field of labor. Queensland has arrived at this interesting stage when the future may be confidently predicted from the achievements of the present. Viewing what has already been accomplished by one of the youngest of the British colonies it seems hardly an oversanguine estimate to look to her ultimately outstripping all the rest in material prosperity.

SIR HENRY NORMAN, G.C.M.G., AGENT-GENERAL FOR QUEENSLAND.

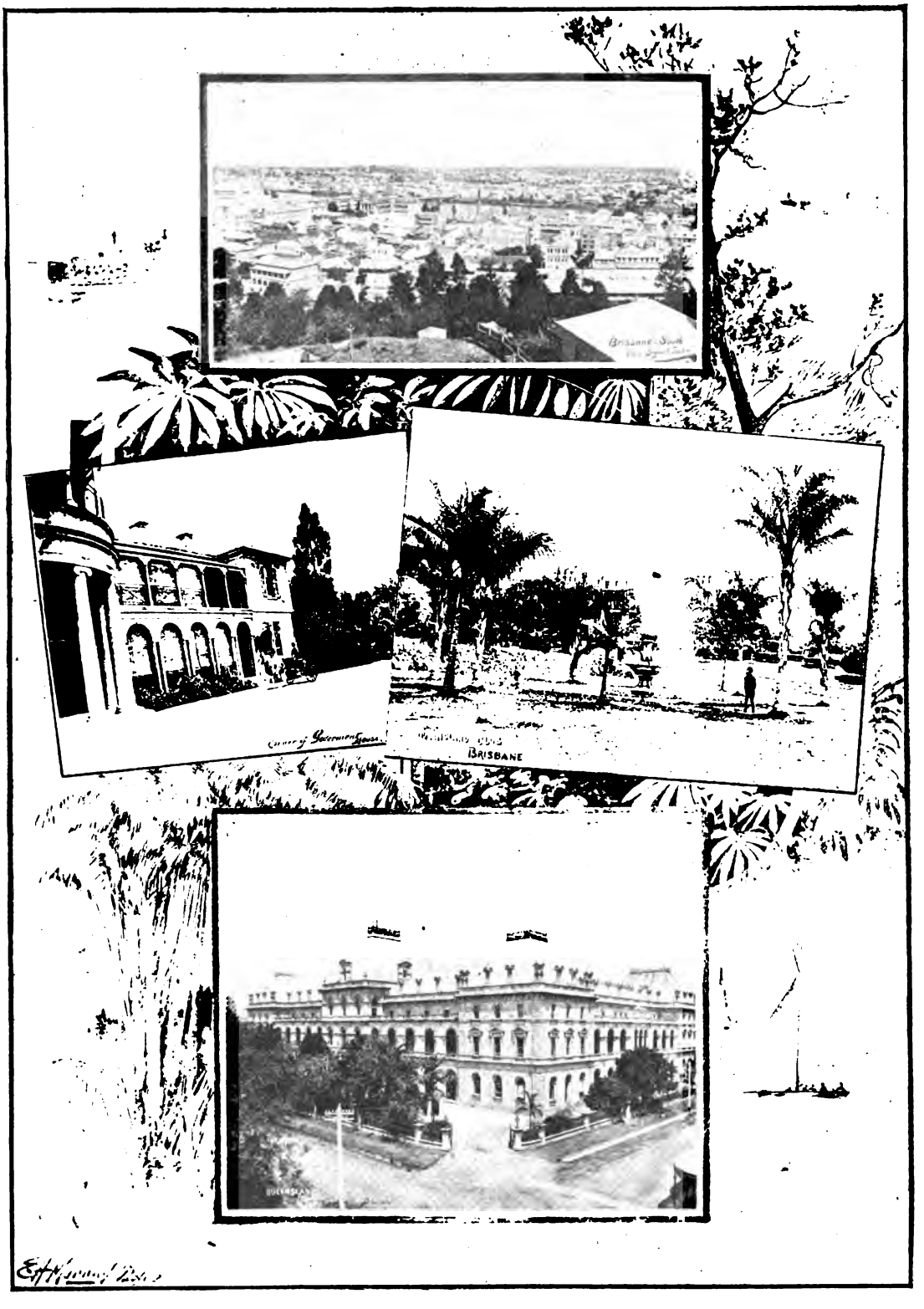
Our purpose is to indicate her various sources of wealth, and the different phases of her industrial life. Photography is a powerful ally in such an undertaking, and

we look confidently to this volume presenting a complete picture of Queensland. But before dealing with the manifold work which engrosses the attention of the colonists, we must briefly glance at the history and the topographical and climatic conditions of the country in which they have made their home.

It was in 1770 that Captain Cook sailed along the Queensland coast, exploring all inlets that gave the promise of a river to give ingress to the unknown continent. He found and named Moreton Bay, but failed to discover the river, the entrance to which is not easily discernible. Flinders, who followed in the track of the great navigator in 1799, though unable in his exploration of the same spacious bay to discover any stream disemboguing into its waters, had noted from their lighter color that the existence of a river of some magnitude was probable. Twenty-four years later Oxley was more fortunate. Arriving in Moreton Bay in 1823 in search of a suitable penal settlement, he fell in with three castaways living with the blacks, one of whom showed him the noble stream, which he named in compliment to Sir Thomas Brisbane, Governor of New South Wales, of which colony the whole territory then formed part. On this river, some twelve miles from its mouth, the capital of Queensland now stands.

The three-quarters of a century which have elapsed since Oxley explored the broad reaches of this beautiful river, have wrought a magical change in its picturesque valley. The stream, at that time the haunt of the wild duck and swan, undisturbed but for the whirr of an occasional boomerang from the bank or the paddle of the blackfellow's canoe, now runs through the heart of a great city. Where the stork and the pelican fished along its reedy banks, spacious wharves give berth to ocean steamers which discharge the products of

BRISBANE FROM KANGAROO POINT.



VIEWS IN BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND.

Manchester and Birmingham, receiving in return the wool, tallow, meat, and hides of the vast pastoral interior, the sugar, maize, and other growths of the tropical coast lands, and the copper, silver, and tin from the colony's mines. In every direction are signs of activity and progress. Looking at the miles of streets, the gardens and recreation grounds, the churches, hotels, and public buildings, the gay villas half-hid in blossoming shrubs and flowers, the steam launches and trim yachts merry with holiday-makers, it is difficult to realize that the single life of many an individual spans the interval between the solitary primeval bush and a scene of such bustling interest. Nor are evidences wanting that the refinements of life have not been neglected in the race for wealth. The pretty homes that dot the suburbs, with their terraced lawns and bright flower beds, tell of cultured hours of ease so welcome in a life of business strain. A noble bridge spans the river, joining North and South Brisbane, and barring the further advance of ocean vessels. Small steamers follow the winding reaches for 40 miles farther to the town of Ipswich, and few river trips are more picturesque.

Queensland extends over 18 degrees of latitude, thus offering a range of climate, notwithstanding the moderate elevation of its highlands, equalled by few countries. From the 29th parallel, which divides it from New South Wales, it stretches to within 11 degrees of the Equator.

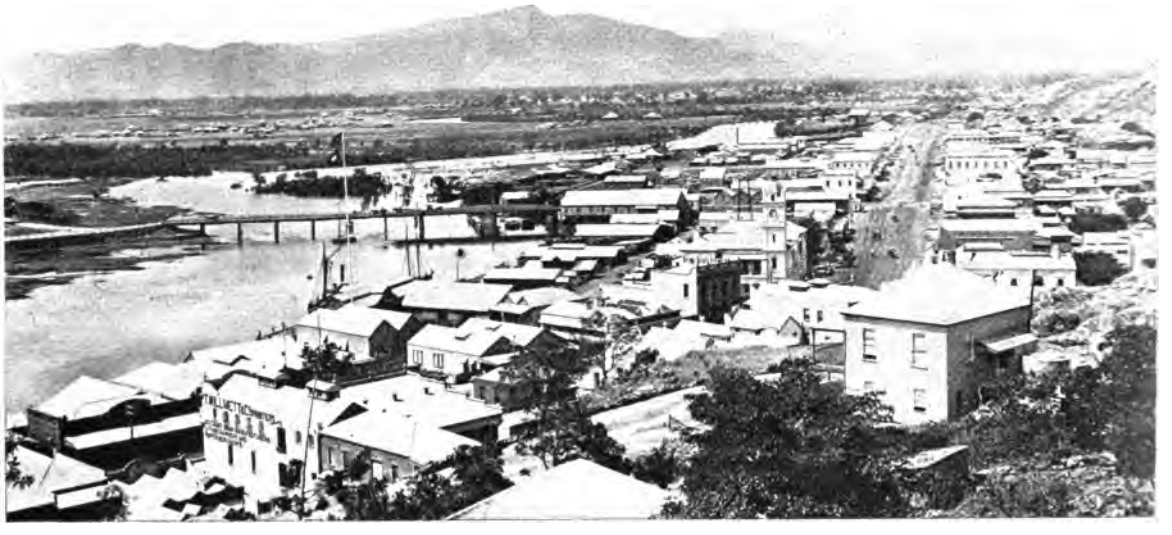
This variety of climate explains the striking diversity of its products. A list of its fruits comprises those of Northern Europe (so dear from association to the dwellers in the Southern Hemisphere) with those of the West Indies. The apple, raspberry, and cherry from the highlands that border New England come to the market with the mango, banana, and pineapple, while the semi-tropical fruits, such as apricots, peaches, grapes, oranges, and figs are too plentiful to be very highly esteemed.

SOUTH BRISBANE AND COAL WHARVES.

EAST STREET, ROCKHAMPTON

Unlike the southern colonies of New South Wales and Victoria, whose commerce passes almost exclusively through a single port, Queensland's coast line of 2,500 miles presents a number of harbors which have become the sites of important towns. The dividing range which separates the eastern from the western waters, follows very roughly at varying distances the general trend of the coast, and supplies the source of numerous rivers which flow eastward to the sea. Important towns which control the trade of the district have grown at their mouths. Going north from Brisbane the most important ports of call are Maryborough, with its timber, saw-milling, and foundry industries, the principal port of Wide Bay and the Gympie Goldfield; Bundaberg, whose prosperity is largely due to the sugar production of its neighborhood; Gladstone, with its meat-preserving works, the outlet too of numerous small goldfields; Rockhampton, the principal port of Central Queensland, which receives and exports the produce of the flocks and herds of the central districts, comprising frozen and preserved meats, tallow, and hides, and which also claims Mount Morgan, the richest gold mine in the world; Mackay, another sugaropolis, which may be termed the home of the Central Sugar Mill system; Bowen, with its beautiful harbor; Townsville, the busy outlet for rich pastoral and mining districts, and the leading port of North Queensland; and, further north, Cardwell, Cairns, and Cooktown, prosperous places where the teeming scrub lands produce all tropical growths to perfection, and where the mountainous back country abounds in a variety of minerals, most of which, with the exception of gold, await a day of future development. Cardwell and

BOURBON STREET, BUNDABERG.



TOWNSVILLE, NORTH QUEENSLAND.

COOKTOWN, NORTH QUEENSLAND.

Cairns each possess magnificent harbors, and in that of the latter vessels of any tonage can discharge alongside the wharves. The Endeavour River on which Cooktown is situated is named after the vessel Captain Cook so nearly lost at this entrance.

Although large herds of cattle are depastured on the seaward side of the range the chief pastures of the colony lie to the westward. The divide between the eastern and western waters prescribes very curiously the habitat of certain industries; gold, for instance, with the exception of one little field on the head of the Condamine, which is a western water, is found only on the eastern side. Sheep thrive only on the western, and though they have been extensively run on eastern waters in days past, and still are to a very limited extent, the true sheep country is the west. Here the character of the country changes. It may be described generally as a slightly elevated plateau, which geologists say was once an ocean bed, or great salt-water lake, evidences of which are furnished by the abundance of sea-shells in the soil. This cretaceous formation is the veritable land of the golden fleece. Here vast flocks occupy the country, the squatter not infrequently counting his sheep by the hundred thousand, and the grazing farmer, who pursues the same industry on a smaller scale, owning possibly a flock of from ten to twenty thousand. The saline character of the pasture, the dry air, the mild winter, which, although not devoid of frosts, allows the growth of abundant herbage at a season when the grass is dry and innutritious, make this the finest sheep country in the world. Its fattening and wool-growing qualities and the healthiness due to its saline vegetation are not surpassed by any other pasture lands.

ON A DARLING DOWNS STATION.

There being no mountain spine in Central Australia, its rivers, though numerous, are not in any respect comparable to the

mighty streams which provide such important arteries for the commerce of the American and African continents. The rainfall, too, is precarious—occasional periods of drought causing, at times, serious loss. Danger from this cause has, however, of recent years, been almost eliminated. Inexhaustible subterranean reservoirs have been found to exist throughout this cretaceous area. Artesian bores have been put down in numbers to tap these stores, and now, on country which a few years ago was dangerous to occupy from its deficient water supply, ribands of bulrushes, which indicate the channels of the bore streams, may be seen meandering for miles across the Downs, robbing drought of its chief terrors.

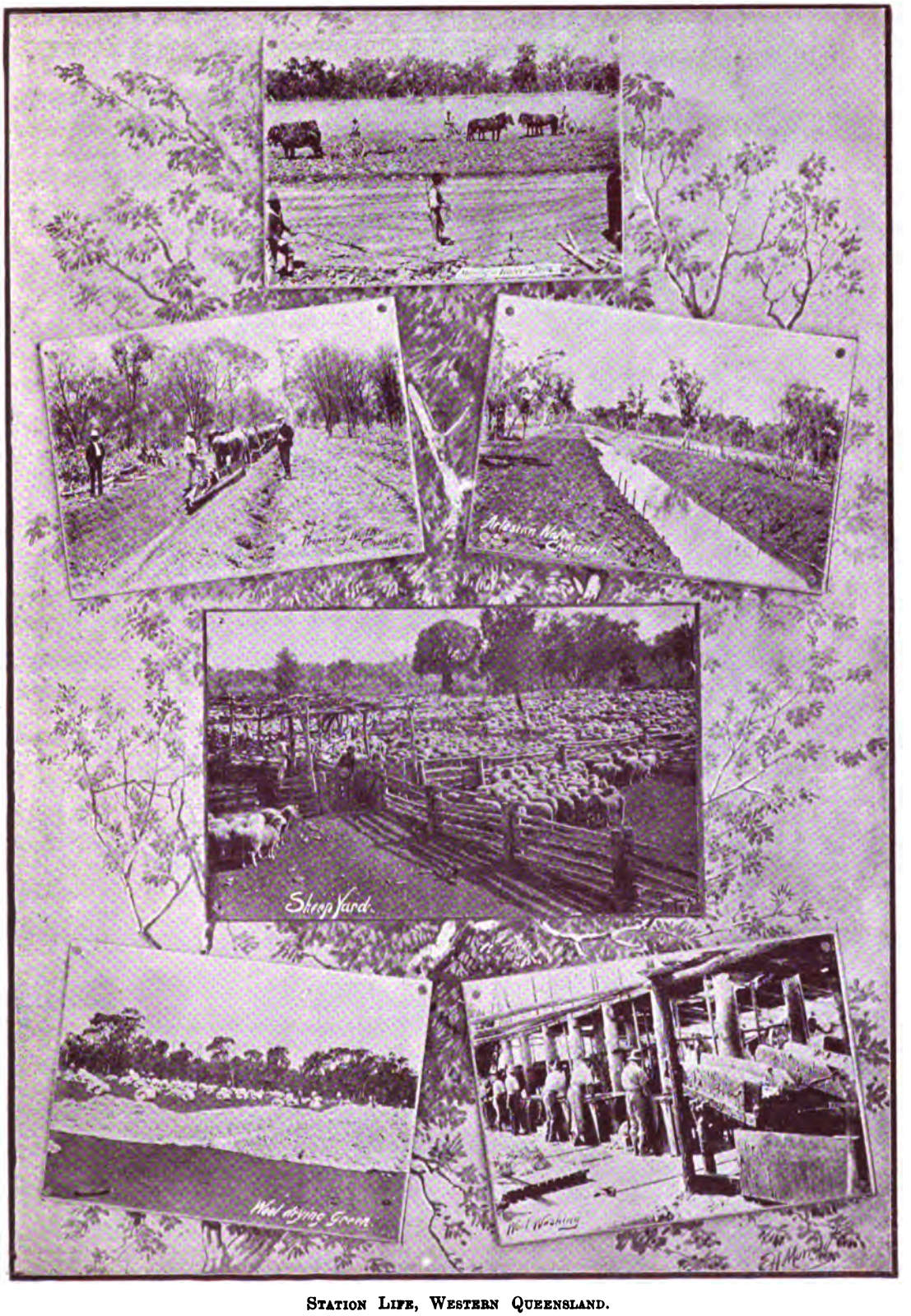
CHARLEVILLE BORE.

It is difficult to exaggerate the change wrought in the conditions of western pastoral settlement by this discovery of artesian water. The supply is held down by an impervious stratum of hard shale which, throughout the artesian basin, forms an undulating floor so that the supply is tapped at varying depths of from 500 to 4,000 feet. The flow from these bores varies greatly in volume, the most abundant yielding as much as 5,000,000 gallons per diem, the average being about 700,000 gallons. Much of the best pasture land of the west was without any permanent surface water, the small watercourses which intersect the Downs storing water for six or eight months at most, so that in times of drought terrible losses occasionally overtook the occupier of these dangerous pastures. It would occasionally happen that during a period of twelve or eighteen months the showers which provided abundance of grass were insufficient to run the watercourses, and, as the holes shrank and ultimately dried, the unfortunate flockmaster would see his flocks perishing by thousands. The doomed animals would crowd in on the diminishing waterholes, converting the frontage into a desert, till they were too weak to travel back to the abundant pasturage which no longer availed them. In 1883-84 the losses from this cause were appalling and many wealthy squatters were ruined. It is pitiful to think that during this cruel season of disaster inexhaustible, but unsuspected, supplies of the precious element were within easy reach, and that whilst stock were perishing from thirst by hundreds of thousands, the ceaseless subterranean tide was flowing steadily southward, within a few hundred yards of this scene of desolation, to empty itself in the ocean bed somewhere in the Great Australian Bight. Now, country which previously was viewed with apprehension is watered by streams which no drought can affect. The carrying capacity of the country has been greatly increased, and the squatter's main source of anxiety abolished for ever.

After a good flow is struck the water has to be led in the required direction, unless

ARTESIAN BORE—ONE MILLION GALLONS A DAY.

The pastoral industry, from the number of people engaged in it, the area of country devoted to it, and the value of its produce, ranks as the first of the great producing industries of the colony. Besides wool there are other products of the pastures to swell the returns: Meat, £985,381; hides and skins, £456,500; and tallow, £595,992, giving a grand total of £5,024,862 derived from the natural grasses. The old shepherding days, when flocks of from 1,500 to 3,000 were tended by a man and a dog, and yarded at night, have long since passed away. Sheep are now run in paddocks, enclosed by wire fences, in flocks of from 10,000 upwards; a boundary rider goes round the fences daily and lays poisoned baits when necessary for native dogs, the dingo being the only enemy of the flock, except at lambing time, when crows and eaglehawks are occasionally troublesome. Gangs of shearers travel about the country from shed to shed, and earn at the rate of from £1 to £2 a day taking off the fleece, which is pressed into bales and loaded on waggons to be conveyed to the nearest railway station. The scene is one of great activity and bustle, a large shed employing as many as 200 men in various capacities for seven or eight weeks at a time. Shearing goes on through nearly all the year, and going from shed to shed a shearer can follow his occupation, if not for all the year round, for at least eight months of it. For the rest of the time there is a variety of bush work, fencing, yard-making, dam-making, or he can betake himself to the nearest diggings to work either for himself or on wages. The old days of "knocking down cheques" are happily passing away. It was too often the custom in past times for a bush worker, after months of toil had provided him with a good sum, to spend the whole of it in a few days at the nearest public house, treating all hands and indulging in saturnalia which left him with empty pockets and disordered health to look for another job. His money now more frequently goes into the savings bank till his accumulation is sufficient to enable him to take up a selection. Even after he has done this, he often, for a few months in the year, follows his old calling, his earnings during the busy season going to the improvement of his home. Shearers are necessarily a nomadic class, but such is not



STATION LIFE, WESTERN QUEENSLAND.

the condition of all bush workers. On all stations a number of permanent hands are employed, and these men get quarters and rations and 20s. to 25s. per week wages.

The land laws of the colony are liberal, and the sentiment of the country is to make them continually more so. Every amendment is in the direction of affording easier opportunities to the man of small means. As the country was first occupied enormous areas were taken up by individuals who obtained long leases, twenty-one years being the term allowed by the Act of 1869. As these leases neared completion the lessee was offered by the Acts of 1884 and 1886 another twenty-one years for two-thirds or a half of his run, according to the length of his unexpired term, and the balance was resumed by the Crown. The resumptions are cut up as required into small areas, the maximum being 20,000 acres, and let as grazing farms on a thirty years' lease, the lessee not being compelled to reside on the farm personally if he prefers being represented by an agent. These grazing farmers are squatters on a small scale, conducting their business in a similar manner to that of their big neighbors, and leading almost identical lives. Any fencing or other improvements on the land which may have been made by the previous lessee the selector has to pay for, at a value which, in the case of disagreement between the parties, is assessed by the Land Board. The only initial expenditure a grazing farmer is called upon to incur is one year's rent in advance, survey fee, and the cost of any improvements that may be on the land. In his own interest he will, of course, run a six-wire fence round the boundaries as quickly as possible, though he is not compelled to complete this before three years. Such a fence costs from £28 to £30 per mile. For this trifling outlay, and the

SHEEP IN YARDS, JONDARYAN STATION, DARLING DOWNS.

Another class to be provided for out of the resumptions was the agricultural. Throughout the country wherever the locality appears suitable, either from the superior quality of the land, the natural water supply, or the facilities for carriage by rail or road, agricultural areas are proclaimed, and farms of a maximum area of 1,280 acres opened on fifty years' lease. The selector can make such a farm freehold, after five years' personal residence, by payment of the balance of the purchase money ; the land being valued at from 15s. upwards, the average being under £1 per acre, and all previous rent during residence, which cannot be less than 3d. per acre, being reckoned as a portion of the purchase. A later Act, passed in 1894, gives opportunity for acquiring grazing homesteads up to an area of 2,560 acres at a rental not exceeding ¾d. per acre. On such an area the selector can combine grazing with agriculture. He must occupy the land by personal residence for six consecutive months in each year for the first ten, after which residence must be continual, but may be effected by a registered agent.

Besides these various holdings, homestead selections of 160 acres can be acquired as freeholds, the conditions being five years' personal residence at a rental of 6d. per acre per annum, and 10s. per acre spent in improvements.

It is obviously of advantage that selectors should, as far as possible, be grouped into communities, so that they may have the benefits of schools and social intercourse. To attain this, efforts have been made at co-operative settlement, and where a number of families wish to settle together freeholds of 160 acres can be acquired, the payment being 6d. per acre a year for five years, with conditions of improvement and residence, and a selector may perform conditions of residence for himself and any other member or members of the community, provided that one selector is in actual occupation of every 320 acres. In cases where a father and several members of his family have taken contiguous farms of 160 acres, this provision allows several of the family to be earning wages elsewhere.

Another Act, recently passed with a view to the furtherance of agricultural settlement, promises excellent results. Agriculture to be profitable must have a near market, and

HARVESTING—DARLING DOWNS.

PLOUGHING "SIX-FURROW," DARLING DOWNS.

emerging from the mountainous district of New England and pressing persistently onward through a dreary waste of inferior country, this magnificent expanse of open downs suddenly gladdened his sight. Probably not even

> "Bold Cortez, when with eagle eyes
> He stared at the Pacific, and his men
> Looked at each other with a mute surmise,"

was more astonished at the vision suddenly opened to him than was Cunningham at the vast expanse of richly clothed downs that stretched away to the horizon. He named the district after Sir Charles Darling, the Governor of New South Wales, and returning to Sydney reported his discovery, the richness of the district greatly impressing him, for though the season was mid-winter he found, to use his own words, "grasses and herbage exhibiting an extraordinary luxuriance of growth." As a botanist of distinction, Cunningham was well qualified to judge of the nature and value of the vegetation which clothed this newly-found land. But the attractions of new country at that day, however rich, lured only the most adventurous. The natives were numerous and hostile. Communication with the coast was difficult and uncertain, and the immeasurable delays in realizing any money value for the products of distant pastures can be easily understood. Yet, after fully acknowledging the many difficulties, it seems almost incredible that, although the importance of the discovery was fully recognized by Cunningham, thirteen years were allowed to pass before any attempt was made to occupy this favored region. It was not till 1840 that Patrick Leslie, following the directions Cunningham had given, pushed on with a few thousand sheep and squatted on country in the neighborhood of what is now the thriving town of Warwick. Leslie was quickly followed by other adventurous spirits, and the runs, which have since become famous from the character of their clips, were established. As time went on the Darling

STOCK YARDS, WESTERN QUEENSLAND.

Views on Wilson's Farm, Darling Downs, Queensland.

Downs pioneers became pastoral princes. They built spacious and substantial homesteads and found in the needs of a government, burdened with the cost of developing a new country, their opportunity. Acquiring by purchase the fee simple of their lands, this bountiful district, of all others the most suitable for agricultural settlement, became the region of large freeholds, devoted to the depasturing of stock. For a long time it was the custom of the Darling Downs squatter to deride attempts at cultivation. The soil, rich and black, it was constantly asserted, "would not grow a cabbage," and although water was abundant over a great portion of the area and the rainfall sufficient, the climate was presumed to be adverse to agricultural pursuits. By degrees, however, selectors acquired small holdings here and there, and the harvests which repaid their efforts effectually exploded the obstinate "cabbage" fiction. The desirability of placing an agricultural population in this fertile region was still more strikingly accentuated when the railway from Toowoomba to Warwick traversed it. A few of the squatters cut up and sold small portions of their estates, but the long terms of payment which alone could enable the farmer, who requires to earn the amount of his purchase out of the land, to buy, was an insuperable obstacle to any extensive transaction of this sort. No private owner can afford to extend the payment for land sold over a period of twenty years. Such a transaction, feasible in the case of a Government which can borrow at 3½ per cent., is beyond the capacity of an individual. Realizing this, Parliament sanctioned the repurchase of choice portions of these freeholds by the State for re-sale on twenty years' terms to farmers.

The first purchases of this nature were made in the neighborhood where Patrick Leslie settled 56 years previously, and other portions have been recovered in different parts of the Downs. Purchases have also been made on the eastern side of the main range, notably on the head of the Logan, where the richest alluvial soil is found within 50 miles of the metropolis. The success which has so far attended the re-sale of such land amply justifies the continuance and extension of this policy. The purchaser is really a leaseholder whose annual rent is credited as part payment of purchase money, and the only conditions imposed are that he shall fence his farm within five years, or expend an equivalent sum in other improvements, and that he shall reside on it either personally or by his agent. Before applying for his grant he must reside personally on the farm for five years. These provisions are sufficient to prevent speculators taking advantage of the Act to acquire land merely with a view to its enhanced future value. A purchaser under the Agricultural Lands Purchase Act pays annually £7 12s. 10d. in respect of every £100 of his purchase money, which provides interest at 5 per cent. and redemption £2 12s. 10d., so that in twenty years, unless he should elect to clear off the debt sooner, the land is his own, payment having been effected by a rent which cannot be regarded as burdensome. With the exception of the first instalment, the whole amount will assuredly have been taken out of the land, so that the estate will have paid for itself, besides keeping its owner and his family in comfort during the process. Maps of the country showing the farms, with careful descriptions, are issued to any applicants, who are, moreover, notified by a proclamation in the *Government Gazette*

yield was a good one, and the wheat stack from this area will supply Mr. Wilson with seed for 100 acres, to be sown in the coming year, with flour for his family till the next harvest, and leave a little for sale. The ploughs were kept going whilst the wheat was growing, with the result that 108 acres have been put down in various crops—oats, potatoes, onions, beans, peas, pumpkins, and maize, all of which look vigorous and healthy. The requisite buildings were pushed on with, creamery, milking shed, and implement shed, and horse and milking yards constructed. A site for the homestead was selected on the highest part of the slope, looking down the valley known as Campbell's Glen, where long sweeps of verdure are hemmed in by a low range of distant hills. The white homesteads of other farms dot the valley in middle distance, and the scene altogether for gentle beauty of a comforting sort cannot be surpassed. Our illustrations show the skeleton of the cottage in course of construction; it stands in an enclosure of three acres, fenced with wire netting and planted as orchard and garden, with a great variety of young fruit trees and vines. Mr. Wilson has started a milking herd with 20 ordinary cows and a Jersey bull. It is his intention to go largely into dairying, a process which enables the farmer to feed good numbers of pigs. A start has been made with a dozen young pigs, two sows and a good Berkshire boar, and should maize and other produce at any time be very low in price, which in seasons of glut is occasionally the case, Mr. Wilson hopes to feed his potatoes, maize, and pumpkins to his pigs. There is a ready sale for these animals at 8 to 10 months old at from 22s. to 25s., the bacon factories being large and constant buyers. Mr. Wilson expects to have about 190 acres in cultivation by the end of next year (1897), of which 100 will be under wheat. The life is an interesting and healthy one, and, considering that over half a million sterling is annually sent out of the colony

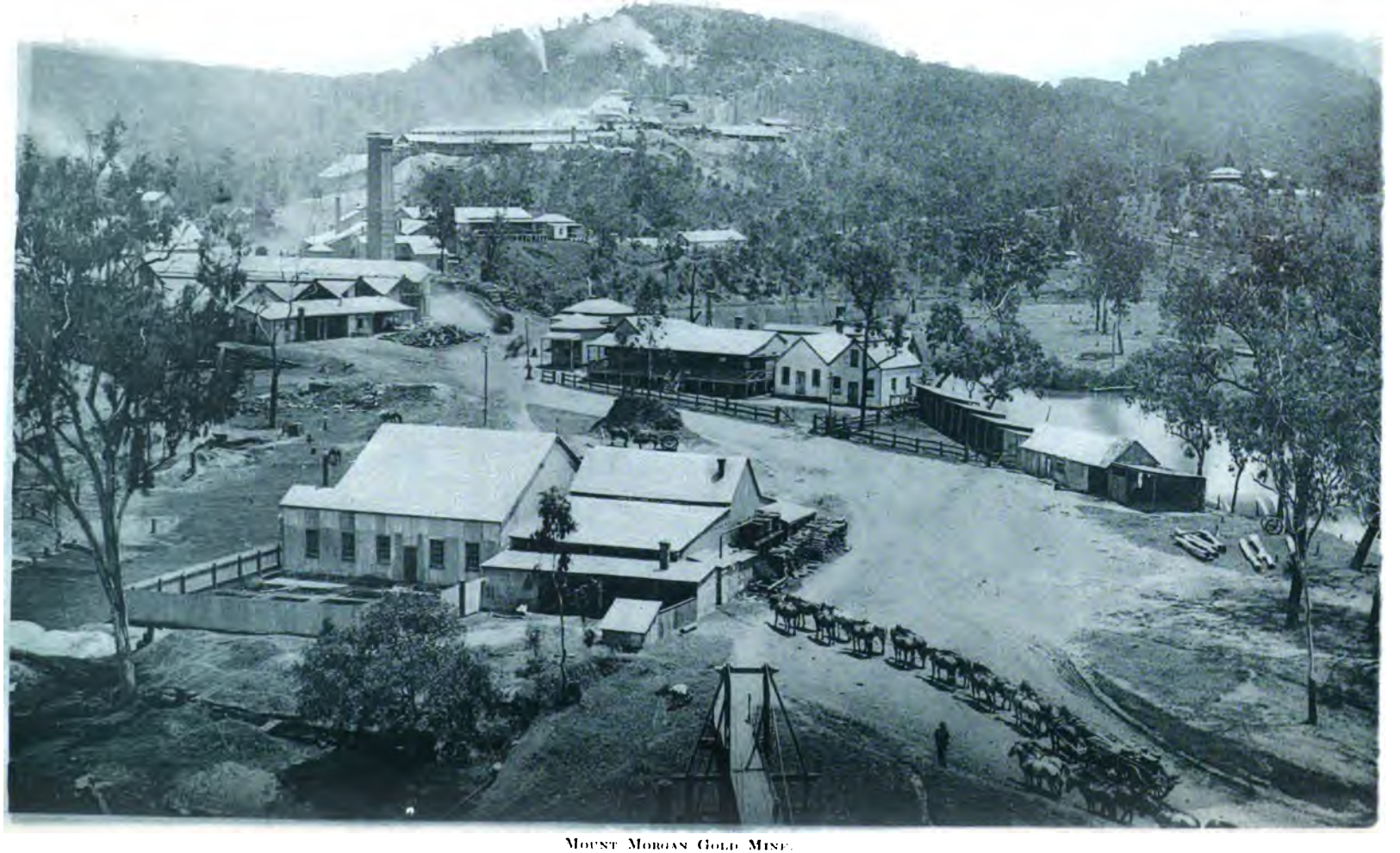
A QUEENSLAND STATION.

HAY-STACKING—MR. A. FREE'S FARM, DARLING DOWNS.

reared a family of stalwart sons, for whom he has managed to make provision out of the profits won from the original holding. The sons, like the father, are all farmers. And what Mr. Free has done, others possessing similar qualities may do on the fertile lands of the Darling Downs."

It must be admitted that the young Queenslander does not take very cordially to the tilling of the soil. The attractions of other bush work, such as stock-riding, droving, horse-breaking, and the many employments which entail a life chiefly passed in the saddle, have estranged his tastes from the more plodding occupations of ordinary farming. Practical farmers, are, therefore, a very welcome class of immigrants in Queensland. Agriculture can hardly be said to have kept pace with the expansion of stock raising. Last year the area in the colony under crop was 285,319 acres.

A Queensland farmer may miss many of the customs of his old home in Herfordshire or Essex, in the Scotch glens, or on the Irish hill-sides, but his lot in the colony will bear comparison with that which he has left, and will leave a substantial balance of enjoyment to the credit of the new life. He lives in a climate which, in spite of four months of hot sunny days, is perhaps the healthiest in the world. On summer nights, if the vines and creepers that shade his verandah make the atmosphere of the cottage uncomfortably close, he can with impunity sleep outside, with his face to the starry sky, fanned by balmy airs that carry no danger to health in their soft breath; and though the crisp winters call for plenty of blankets and a cheerful fire, the season is bright and dry, with no touch of the gloom that characterizes so much of the winter weather in the country he has left. His children receive an excellent education at the cost of the State, and if any show special aptitude for learning they can continue, by aid of scholarships, their education in higher schools. All the necessaries of life—meat, butter, and bread—are cheap, and the rent, which constitutes such a tax upon industry in the old country, is a mere bagatelle. Colonial life is full of work, but it is by no means devoid of play. Holidays are less grudgingly taken than is the case in older communities. All the pastimes of the old country have been transferred to the new to flourish with astonishing vigor on Australian soil. The settlers' sons will probably be better cricketers, harder riders, and generally keener sportsmen than had they been reared in the old home; and if the father is thrifty and persevering, and his family industrious, the evening of his life will be passed in a condition of comfort very difficult to attain in Europe.



Mount Morgan Gold Mine.

So far settlement on the soil has engaged our attention; but an almost equally important section of the community comprises those engaged in searching under the surface for the mineral treasures which nature has stored so lavishly in Australia, but has guarded with a secrecy so profound as to ensure their being won only by intelligent persistence and toil. Of the mineral industries gold-mining takes the lead, as its prizes are the richest. Queensland's gold deposits have, moreover, contributed more than any circumstance to her rapid advancement, the value of the total output of this metal to the end of 1895 from the first record being £36,955,117, and the estimated value of the machinery at present employed in working the mines and reducing the ore £1,142,107. An idea of the magnitude of the industry will be suggested by these figures. But her gold mines have done more for Queensland than even these figures indicate. At one time of her history, when credit throughout the world was shaken to its foundations and the youthful industries of the colony were struggling for existence, when employment was so scarce owing to general loss of confidence that numbers of unemployed flocked to the towns and demanded Government relief, the discovery of a rich alluvial field saved the colony from temporary collapse. An old miner named Nash, prospecting the hills on the upper reaches of the Mary River, found a deposit of the precious metal in a gully that has since borne his name. Within a marvellously short time every able-bodied man in search of employment had hastened to the new diggings; and for miles along the Mary River, which for ages had pursued its silent course through the dense forest of this little-known region, the miners set up their cradles, turning the stream a tawny yellow with their wash-dirt. This was in 1866. The exciting rumours of the rich finds at Gympie attracted population from the other colonies. The diggings were within 100 miles of the metropolis, and every merchant and storekeeper who had been bemoaning his languishing prospects in Brisbane and the other towns along the seaboard, dispatched what goods were available to Gympie, where in a tent or bark hut he opened a new "branch." Since then £2,036,380 worth of gold has

PROSPECTING FOR GOLD.

value, and the force of Tennyson's line is realized :

"When Ilion like a mist rose into towers."

Men who are lucky enough to get claims on a good reef usually sell a portion, probably half, to some capitalist, who

VIEW OF WORKS, MOUNT MORGAN.

provides the crushing plant for the treatment of the stone, or else they sell to a company, retaining a non-contributing interest in the venture. It is characteristic of gold miners that their profits are usually put back into the ground in the purchase of other interests. Wages are good, underground men getting from £2 10s. per week in the temperate portion of the colony to £3 10s. on such fields as Croydon, Etheridge, and others in the tropical north, while engine-drivers make from £4 to £5 per week. Life on an Australian goldfield is full of incident and excitement. News of the last find, or the new "rush," the prospect of striking a well-known reef in the block claims on the underlie, these are the topics of main interest, but the Saturday's football or cricket match and the coming race meeting claim a full share of attention.

Of all Queensland mines the most sensational by far is Mount Morgan. There is a pathetic interest about the discovery of this marvellous mine that attaches probably in lesser degree to other mineral discoveries, but which, in this instance, is brought into striking relief by the stupendous wealth missed by its original owner. The Australian poet, Brunton Stephens, whom Queensland specially claims, has in "The Lost Chance" treated a similar theme—that of a man living for years on a spot, the boundless wealth of which was only discovered after he had parted with it :

"To have built my hovel on it—to have dreamed above it nightly,—
Pillowed on the weal of thousand lives and dead unto my own !
Planning paltry profits wrung from year-long toil, and holding lightly
What lay acres wide around me, naked-bright or grass-o'ergrown."

Mount Morgan is one of a low range of hills from several of which it differs in no marked manner in outward aspect. It was a portion of a selection owned by a man named Gordon, who by the necessary

TUNNEL AND ORE TRUCKS, MT. MORGAN.

residence and fencing had fulfilled the conditions that made it freehold. The pasturage was poor and scanty and the country rugged, so that Gordon eked out a

precarious subsistence with a few head of cattle. Two brothers, Morgan, prospectors of some experience, visited him by chance and partook of the rough hospitality extended without distinction to all travel-

OVERSHOT DAM, MOUNT MORGAN.

lers in the bush. Gordon mentioned his belief that the Mount contained copper, as curious green and blue stains could be observed all over it. The Morgans were led by curiosity to examine the Mount. A shower had recently wetted the rocks, and one of the brothers noticed indications, which, to his practised eye, were startlingly significant. Taking away a few samples in their pockets they bid their host adieu and left him to continue the hungry life which was all that the richest known spot on the globe was able to afford him. Re-appearing shortly after, they offered to buy his selection, which he thought himself lucky to be able to dispose of for £1 per acre. The portion of the Mount which was outside Gordon's fence was subsequently secured under mining lease. Of the real value of their acquisition the Morgans had no conception, but that it would pay handsomely to work they were confident. To treat the stone it was necessary to erect a battery, and for this their resources were entirely inadequate. They proposed, therefore, to a Rockhampton resident a sale of half their interest for £2,000, the money to be devoted to the purchase of machinery. It was too great a risk, however, for one man to accept, but the gentleman to whom they applied invited his brother and two friends to join him in the enterprise to the extent of £500 each. In a few years all concerned were millionaires. Many difficulties had to be overcome, for the gold was contained in a ferruginous stone insensible to a large degree, to the ordinary process of amalgamation. No previous experience of Australian gold mining was of much avail, the occurrence of gold in the Mount being unique. The Government Geologist has since determined the occurrence as due to a thermal spring, long since inactive, which carried the gold in solution to the summit of the Mount, to be afterwards precipitated and consolidated, with other mineral con-

ON THE SUMMIT, MOUNT MORGAN.

stituents, into a ferruginous stone. The same process which originally distributed the gold through the substance of the mountain has since been adopted for its

SLUICING FOR GOLD, MULGRAVE RIVER.

recovery. The precious metal is dissolved by chlorination, and runs in a sherry-colored liquid into filters, to be there chemically precipitated. The mine has for years been the property of a company with a capital of £1,000,000, the lucky shareholders having received in dividends up to the present date £4,225,000. The reduction works are most extensive, lit by electricity and kept going continuously night and day. The top of the Mount has been quarried away, and on this portion, which received the overflow of the Pactolian geyser, was the richest deposit. Whilst this portion was being treated, from £100,000 to £125,000 was distributed monthly in dividends, and though these sensational returns have now ceased, the company pay £25,000 a month with perfect regularity, and are likely to continue doing so for many years. The spot where poor Gordon's cattle found bare subsistence, now maintains in splendor a few very rich men and provides well paid employment for an army of workmen, the company employing about 1,100 men. A town thrives at the foot of the Mount, and the whole district has been regenerated by the enormous expenditure of the company.

SLUICING FOR GOLD.

Charters Towers is the leading goldfield of Queensland. Indeed, it has only been surpassed by two other Australian fields—Ballarat and Sandhurst, which have contributed so enormously to the wealth of Victoria.

Early in 1872 three miners, Mosman, Clarke, and Fraser, were prospecting on a branch of the Broughton Creek, in a locality known as the 70-Mile. They had constantly met with "colors," an occasional dish giving fair prospects, but none of the flats or gullies yielded promises sufficiently alluring to induce them to take up any ground. One evening towards sundown the three mates were discussing the advisability of shifting camp to some other watershed, when one of them, pointing to some little peaks which could be seen sharply defined against the glowing background, suggested trying "those tors" before leaving the district. Thither next day they accordingly shifted. After riding for seventeen miles through lightly timbered country, they came to the largest of these tors. This was a rugged little hill 300ft. high. Prospect-

ing round its base they found quartz in considerable quantities thickly impregnated with gold, and were satisfied that they had at length come upon a payable find. Each marked out a claim, and reported the discovery to the nearest Gold Warden, who on visiting the locality at once realized that a valuable goldfield had been found, and granted the discoverers the reward claims at that time allowed. The Warden's name was Charters, and the field became known as Charters' Tors, which quickly lapsed into Charters Towers.

Queenslanders at that day had small experience of reefing, and the new-comers were mostly engaged in the search for alluvial gold. But attention was gradually turned to the quartz reefs which intersected the country, and the extraordinary returns obtained from some of them quickly converted the miner to other methods than the wash-dish. The richest of the earliest reefs was the St. Patrick. This was owned by three men, Francis, Horace, and Stubley, and from it they took several hundred thousand pounds' worth of gold in an incredibly short time. Stubley was a blacksmith, a good-natured, popular fellow, not destitute of ability; but the good fortune which left him nothing to be wished for proved his bane. He became member for his district, and after a period of wild extravagance, speculation, and excitement, returned a pauper to look for another fortune, and was ultimately found dead on the Croydon road.

Some of the most valuable of the Charters Towers reefs were not rich at the surface, and their history proves that persistence is of all virtues one of the most essential for a successful miner. The Day Dawn exemplifies this very strikingly. This mine belonged to five or six working-men. The reef was a true fissure lode of good width, but although there was an abundant body of stone it was of such poor quality that one by one the partners dropped out of the enterprise, their places being taken by other men who put in their work to fulfil the labour conditions and accepted their predecessor's share. One man, Frederick Pfeiffer, stuck to his share through all the evil days. For years he worked on, paying off, when a little gold was won, what he could of his arrears of store account. Storekeepers on the diggings are as a rule not a very exacting class, and a man known to be honest may run an account for years, his creditor speculating on his customer some day "striking it" and clearing off old scores. Pfeiffer was honest enough, but his want of luck severely taxed the patience of his tradesmen, and the tenacity with which he stuck to his big, poor reef caused many to regard him as "a crank." One day he "struck it rich," and as work proceeded the reef steadily improved, since which it has paid enormous sums in dividends. The "crank" of those days is now one of the very rich men of Charters Towers, and has proved by the shrewdness of his subsequent ventures that there was much method in his crankiness. The Day Dawn has long since been formed into a limited company and has richly rewarded its lucky shareholders. There are other very productive mines on the same line of reef, the most important of which are the Day Dawn Block and Wyndham, and the Mills United.

Amongst the chronicles of Charters Towers not the least curious is the story of the finding of the Brilliant. Mr. Craven was the lucky discoverer; this gentleman harbored a theory that on a certain area

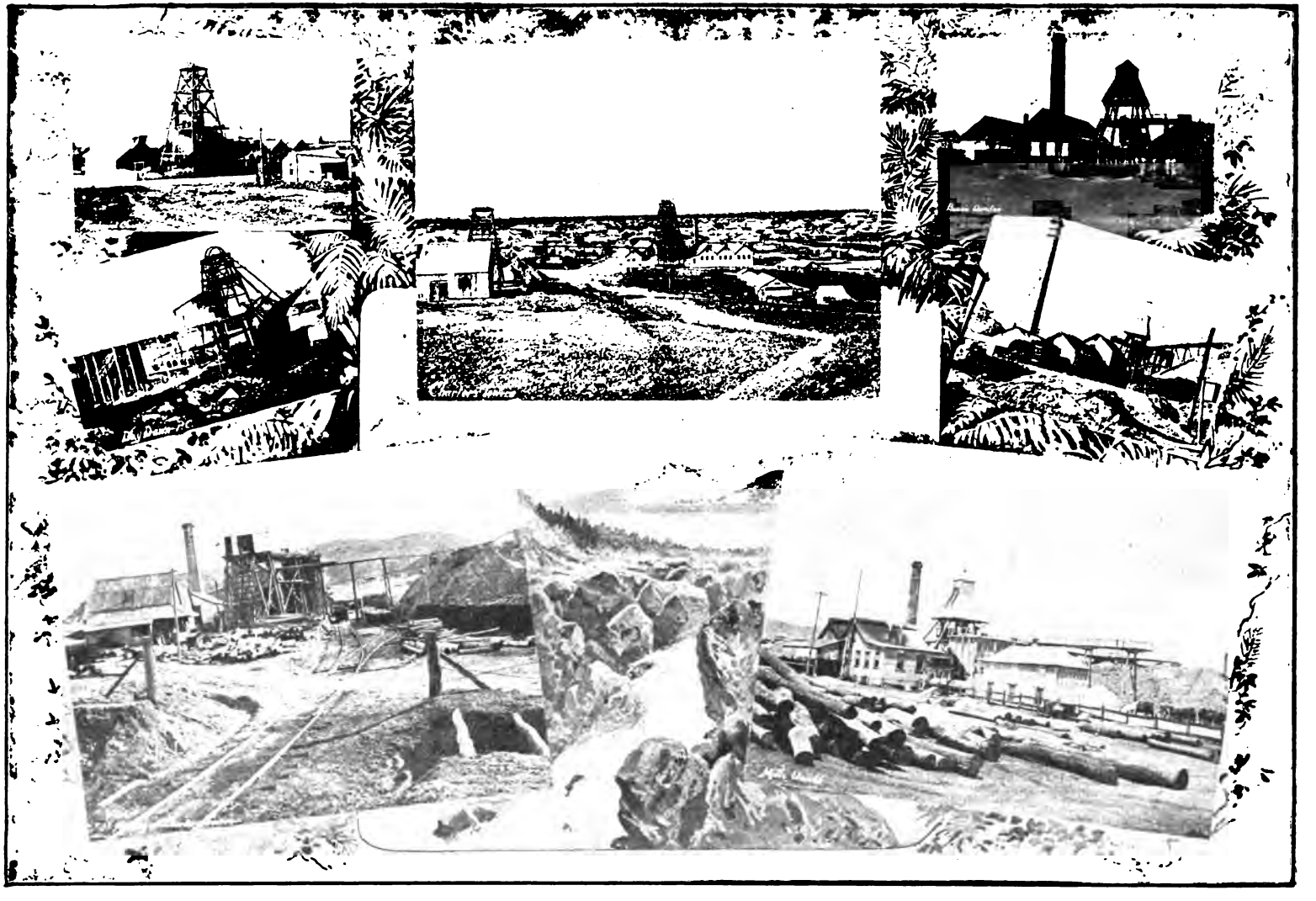
of vacant ground the Day Dawn line and the Queen line must meet, and that at their junction the stone would be very rich. All the science of the field was against him, but he had had some little previous success and determined to sink a shaft to test his theory. A deep shaft is a very costly undertaking, and as Craven's shaft went down month after month the best informed men on the field, including the Warden, shook their heads at the rashness of throwing good money into the earth on such a fool's quest. A young Irishman, a new arrival, with a little money, became afflicted with the

HYDRAULIC SLUICING FOR GOLD, RUSSELL RIVER.

bee that buzzed in Craven's bonnet, and supplied the funds required to continue the sinking. When they got to 700 feet, which at that time was deeper than any other shaft on the field, the outlook was gloomy in the extreme and the question of abandoning the enterprise was daily discussed. They resolved, however, to persevere for another 50 feet, and at 743 feet they came on, not what they were in search of, but an unknown reef, the first shot disclosing what, in miner's parlance, is termed "a jeweller's shop." This was the famous Brilliant which has yielded a princely revenue ever since. Deep sinking has since proved this mine and others to great depths; the Brilliant Extended, which is a block claim on the Brilliant reef, being now down 2,240 feet. On most of the fully developed mines dividends are paid with great regularity, and the purchase of Charters Towers scrip is regarded as a profitable and legitimate investment for capital and not as a gambling speculation. A town of 20,000 inhabitants has formed itself on the high granite country, where Mosman and his mates hobbled their horses in 1872, and in every direction the poppet-heads of famous mines can be seen above the houses, over £12,000,000 of gold having been taken from the field up to the end of 1895. Sums amounting to £13,000 are paid weekly by the different mining companies in wages, and the swarming streets on Saturday nights, when the miners stroll about in their clean moleskins, is a sight not to be forgotten.

In some portions of the colony where sufficient water power is available, alluvial gold is won by hydraulic sluicing. This method has been very successfully adopted on the Russell River, where the miners bring water many miles in flumes and then play upon the face of the auriferous soil with a hydrant, washing away the surface to a considerable depth, the superior weight of the gold enabling them to save it in the race.

The gold production of Queensland has been steadily progressive till last year, 1896, the colony stands second on the list of the Australasian group as regards the total annual yield. Other comparisons are still more eloquent as to the relative profitableness of gold mining in Queensland and elsewhere. Per head of the popu-



VIEWS AT CHARTERS TOWERS GOLD FIELD, QUEENSLAND.

lation engaged in winning gold Queensland produces more than double that of Victoria and more than three times that of New South Wales and New Zealand. From an able and exhaustive article on this subject in the *Brisbane Courier* we venture to quote, the statistics given being most significant as to the profitableness of the industry :—

Of course, we know the gold yield of Queensland has fluctuated; but so also has that of the other colonies. And let it not be forgotten that by comparison this variation has, in the case of Queensland, been less marked than anywhere else. For instance, take Victoria, which tops the list of producers: The yield there shrank from 2,985,735oz. in 1856 to 809,653oz. in 1877, and the number of miners employed had increased by leaps and bounds. Only four times since then has this latter yield been exceeded, and in 1896 it only totalled about 805,087oz., which was the highest level attained during the preceding twelve years. At the same time, the much more numerous body of miners employed to win it, demonstrates that the premier producer is not by any means the premier field for miners. But let a few figures speak. For if there were any doubt as to the claims of Queensland, not only as a field for remunerative investment, but also as a centre of lucrative employment, it could be dispelled by a few simple statistics. Taking the 1894 yield of the five colonies, and dividing by the number of miners who won it, we get the astounding results manifested in the following table :—

Colony.	No. of Miners Employed.	Average Production of Gold. Quantity. Oz.	Value. £	s.	d.
N.S. Wales ..	17,207	18.88	67	4	6
Victoria	27,889	23.32	93	5	7
Queensland ..	11,428	59.46	208	2	3
Tasmania ..	1,291	44.97	174	13	2
New Zealand ..	11,412	19.42	77	16	0

The statement that the variation in the gold yield of Queensland is less marked than in any of the others is proved by the following table, which takes in the four leading colonies since 1861 :—

—	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1895.
	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.
Queensland ..	1,077	171,937	270,945	573,439	626,299
N. S. Wales ..	465,685	323,609	149,627	153,330	360,105
Victoria ..	1,967,453	1,355,477	858,850	576,400	740,036
N. Zealand ..	194,031	730,029	270,561	251,996	293,491

A careful study of this table reveals a trustworthy barometer, which shows a rapid continuous rise in the case of Queensland, and a more or less fluctuating condition on the part of her neighbors.

At the time of writing, the returns for 1896 are not available for any of the colonies except Queensland, but the yields have been approximated by statisticians, and this approximation places Queensland in the proud position of second rank on the year's output. Here are the figures :—

Colony.	1895. Oz.	1896* Oz.
Victoria	740,036	805,087
Queensland	626,299	638,212
New South Wales ..	360,163	300,000
New Zealand	293,491	300.000
West Australia	231,513	281.265
Tasmania	54,964	64,165
South Australia	47,343	27,516
The seven colonies ..	2.353,809	2.41 6,245

* These figures (except Queensland) are approximate.

HYDRAULIC SLUICING FOR GOLD, RUSSEEL RIVER.

But although in mining, gold, as we have said, takes the lead, the industry is by no means confined to the search for the most precious metal. There have been times when copper and tin have caused booms which have equalled the excitement of the richest gold discovery. Unfortunately the serious fall in the value of these metals has caused them of late years to be somewhat neglected. The deposits of copper in the Cloncurry District equal in richness any found in America. The cost

of carriage prevents the profitable working of these mines at the present price of copper, but when a railway connects this district with the coast these grand lodes are sure to be again worked. In the Herberton District, which abounds in mineral wealth, magnificent lodes of copper exist, but are destined to remain unproductive till such time as capital and population shall have cheapened the cost of production, and rendered districts easily accessible that are now burdened with costly carriage. Since 1880 copper has declined in value 50 per cent.,

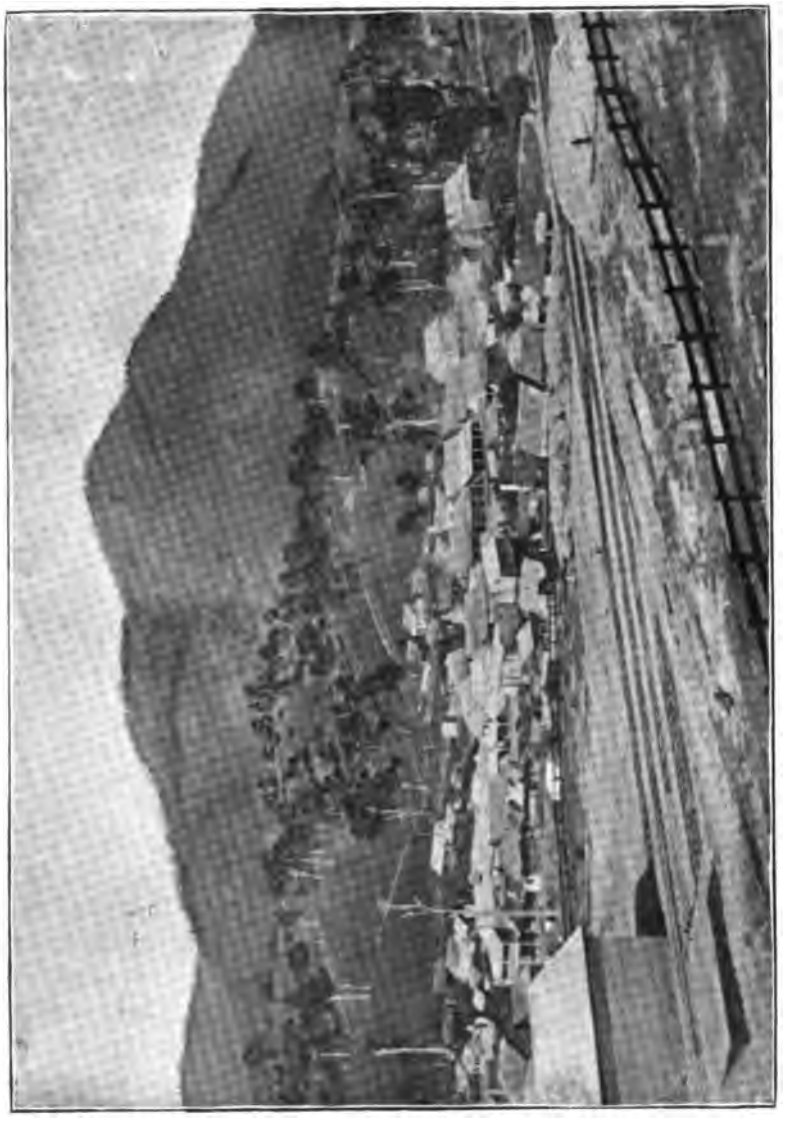
HYDRAULIC SLUICING FOR GOLD, RUSSELL RIVER.

but has of late recovered to some extent, and should it again attain a payable price the output from Queensland mines could be almost indefinitely increased. The adoption of electric power steadily extends, necessitating an increased demand for copper cables, so that the future of this metal holds out some promise. Since 1860, when the first ton of copper was raised in Queensland, the value of this mineral exported amounts to £1,987,074.

The conditions which restrict the output of copper obtain similarly in the case of tin, of which abundant lodes exist in the northern portion of the colony, tin mining in the south being entirely alluvial. About Stanthorpe, where the first discovery of tin was made in 1872, the ore is found in beds of drift in the form of stream tin. For a long time its dusky color, as oxide of tin, failed to attract notice. When its value was detected there was a rush for claims, and Stanthorpe sprang into existence. In the next year, tin to the value of £606,184 was exported. The price of the metal was then between £70 and £80 per ton, and in 1880 it advanced to £90. Since then it has so greatly declined as to leave barely a margin of profit to the miner. The production, therefore, has greatly decreased, and last year, the lowest in the history of the industry, had shrunk to £68,133. The total value of the tin output since 1873 attains the respectable figure of £4,325,771.

Silver suffers from the same depression that affects copper and tin. With the serious decline in price most of the silver mines in the Herberton and Bowen districts have ceased work. Lead occurs in abundance with the silver, and, in the Herberton District especially, all the necessary fluxes for smelting the ore abound, but the carriage of fuel in a mountainous region, and the cost of getting supplies up from the coast, combined with the continually dwindling price of the product, have, for a time, strangled the industry. Should the principal use of silver from remotest antiquity ever be restored and the metal be remonetized, Queensland's output would be considerable. Under existing conditions the value of the annual yield, which in 1887 was £80,092, had shrunk in 1895 to £30,042.

One of the most important elements in promoting the commercial greatness of a



MOUNT PERRY—FROM THE COPPER MINES.

country is an abundance of coal. In this respect Queensland is greatly favored. Her coal measures, which belong to two distinct geological periods, may be said to be inexhaustible. The main collieries are in the basin of the Brisbane and Bremer rivers, the mineral coming down the former river in barges principally, though much is also carried by train. In the vast basin formed by the different tributaries of the Fitzroy River, having its outlet at Rockhampton, and extending over four degrees of latitude another extensive coal-field exists, and on the Bowen River, still

FITZROY BRIDGE, ROCKHAMPTON.

further north, magnificent coal measures are being opened up. The northernmost outcrop of coal yet discovered is at Cooktown. Queensland as yet may be said to have only recently emerged from the pastoral stage. Her manufactures are comparatively few, so that the local consumption of coal is insignificant in comparison with her potentiality of production. Nor are her collieries near enough to port to enable her to compete for the export trade on even terms with New South Wales. The output, however, shows a steady annual increase, the 32,107 tons of 1875 having expanded in 1895 to 323,068 tons. The continual expansion of the foundries and the many incipient factories may be looked to to provide an increased local demand in the future.

As yet iron, of which there are immense deposits in Queensland, commands no attention. The low price of the imported article has repressed any inclination towards home production. Mr. R. L. Jack, the Government Geologist, writing of the neighborhood of Cloncurry, says :—" The most striking features of the country are mountains of pure specular and magnetic iron ore. One of these, Mount Leviathan, is about 200 feet high and a quarter of a mile in diameter at its base. It is singular to reflect that these deposits, which, if they were located in England, would be colossal fortunes to their owners, are at present absolutely valueless owing to their geographical position."

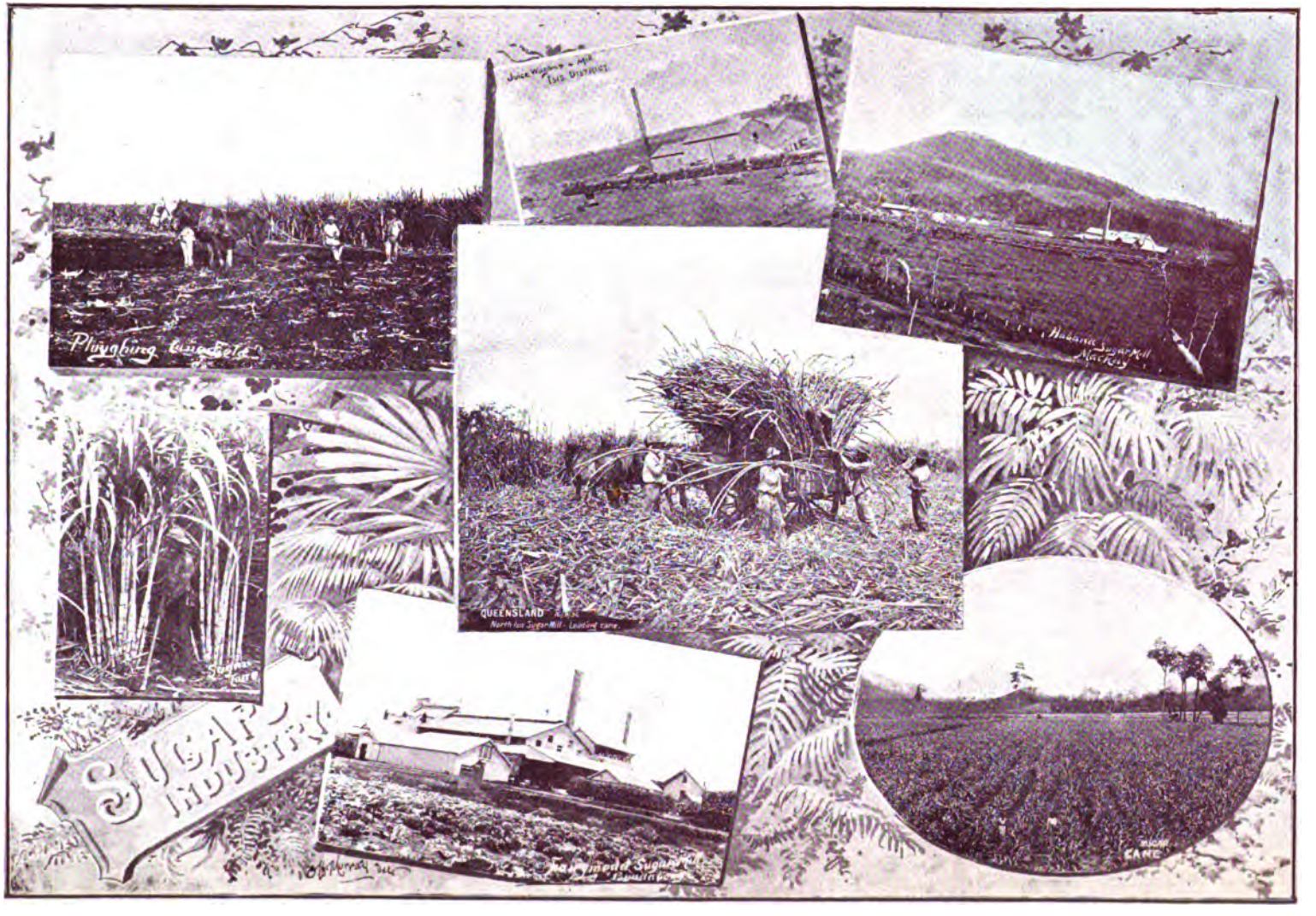
Mining enterprise is not confined to the endeavor to rifle the earth of her mineral treasure. In the far pastoral west, beyond all metalliferous deposits, valuable opal mines have been found. For years drovers and bushmen, coming in from Cooper's Creek and other western localities, have brought fine pieces of opal to gladden the eyes of their sweethearts ; but these specimens were regarded more as curiosities than as valuable gems obtainable by systematic search. In quite recent years bushmen, temporarily out of a job, turned their attention to prospecting for this beautiful gem. Opal buyers from the towns, attracted by the occasional sight of a specimen from the west, travelled through the districts to pick up bargains, and stimulated the search by the prices they were willing to give. In 1890, the first

year in which opals find a place in the report of the Under Secretary for Mines, the value of those obtained was £3,000. In 1895 it had increased to £32,750. Mr. J. B. Hickie, an opal buyer of considerable experience, wrote to the Under Secretary for Mines giving an account of the opal fields; and his letter, from which we venture to quote, finds a place in the latter's annual report. He visited nearly all the fields, though unfortunately in a time of severe drought, and at length came to Fermoy, "a place that has attracted considerable attention within the past year on account of the rich finds made there of the precious gem. At the time of my visit there were between 300 to 400 men on the field, and the estimated value of the opal obtained there since attention was first attracted to the place some twelve months previous, was variously stated at from £15,000 to £20,000. Judging by what I saw and the quality of the stone, I am inclined to think the latter sum. The field is far from exhausted at the present day, and we hear frequently of fresh finds being made from day to day. Amongst the miners I found some old opal-getters, old men who had never followed any other occupation for years, but they were very few indeed. The great majority of them are recruited from the ranks of the shearers, who turn to opal mining in the 'off season,' and sometimes make it pay handsomely. Their methods are for the most part of the most primitive kind; I should rather say objectionable, in many instances, because in very many cases they content themselves with turning up a few feet of earth and then abandon the spot. The sight of this upturned earth very frequently deters the next comer from working the place, being naturally under the impression that the place was unsuccessfully 'bottomed' before, and they pass it by. I have frequently pointed this out to diggers, and I am pleased to say that in one or two instances the men who have acted on my advice sank

ANTIMONY MINE, GLADSTONE.

and came on some rich deposits in one of these abandoned 'bottomed' claims. Of the opal miners themselves, I must say that I have always found them for the most part good fellows. I often carried considerable sums of money and quantities of opal about my person, and I must say that, save and except when some shearer has too much Western 'tanglefoot' concealed about his person, when he would become uproarious, I have never seen a sign of a disturbance, nor have I in that time ever lost a shilling or an opal. For the benefit of the uninitiated, the whole of Western Queensland, from the South Australian border eastward, possibly covering a belt of country about 200 miles wide, there have already been discovered valuable finds of opal as well as many valueless ones, because as there are good and bad quartz mines, so there are good and bad opal mines. That there are many more yet to be brought to light admits of no possible doubt; indeed, in my opinion, the opal industry is as yet only in its infancy in the colony, and in view of the fact of its present and daily increasing demand, both in Europe and America, I am of opinion that mining for the precious gem ought to be placed on some more satisfactory basis than at present exists. There are, I am certain, tens of thousands of pounds' worth of opal within a few inches of the surface, and it only requires a little systematic search to unearth it. The opal is found in two formations—boulder and sandstone. The boulder is an ironstone formation, for the most part completely surrounding the precious gem. They are just like a reef, and can be followed up for some distance. The sandstone or band formation sometimes outcrops on the surface, and some very valuable opals indeed have been found within six inches of the surface, but sometimes the sinking is as much as 30 feet, after the manner of sinking for alluvial gold. The shaft is said to be bottomed when the 'clay' is met, after which further sinking is useless, but in many instances inexperienced miners don't know when they come to the 'clay,' though this knowledge is soon acquired by anyone anxious to know for himself."

GOING TO THE HERBERTON MINES.



VIEWS OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY, QUEENSLAND.

The rich lands on the eastern or seaward side of the irregular mountain range, which has been indicated as following roughly the trend of the coast line, are exceedingly prolific, the rainfall being more copious and regular than on the Western Downs. Tropical agriculture has an immeasurable future when the northern scrubs are brought into cultivation. At present there are thousands of acres on the northern rivers growing nothing but the wild fruits and long-podded beans that for centuries have ripened and rotted, adding their annual contribution to the vegetable mould of the tangled jungle, which awaits only the axe, the hoe, and the plough to produce crops of great economic value.

Sugar is found to be the most profitable crop. The field work has hitherto been to a large extent performed by kanakas, and their employment has always furnished a theme of contention for politicians. These Islanders work as indentured laborers for three years, and are strictly confined to the operations connected with field cultivation. They work cheerfully under a burning sun and in the stifling cane rows, but are prohibited from working in the factory, as well as from ploughing, horse-driving, or any work suitable for white men. Whether work in the cane fields is adapted to Europeans is a debatable question, not to be discussed here. But the kanaka problem is gradually solving itself in a satisfactory manner. The large sugar estates are in very gradual process of division into small holdings. The planter finds it more to his advantage to confine his capital and attention to manufacturing the cane grown by the tenants who farm portions of his fields, or purchase them outright. He buys the cane grown by these farmers at a contract price ranging from 10s. to 13s. per ton. It is greatly to the millowner's interest that those who supply the material which keeps his factory employed should do well; his constant aim is to encourage others to grow cane for him. Policy even requires him to supply funds when required for initial expenses and repay himself at

the settlement after harvest-time. Unless the farmer makes cane-growing pay the factory must come to a standstill, so that a community of interest ensures the interdependence of farmer and millowner. One great advantage the cane-grower enjoys over all other producers. His market is sure and close at hand. He delivers his cane at the mill and receives payment in cash, without the expense that entails such a formidable charge upon other producers —commission, storage, freight. He can calculate his crop and know months beforehand what he will draw for it and almost the day upon which he may expect his money.

In 1892 the London *Times* sent a very able correspondent to report upon the leading industries of Australia, and from the excellent account of the Queensland sugar industry which was published in the *Times* of 7th January, 1893, we cannot do better than quote :—

CANE-FIELD AND SELECTOR'S HOME.

"Historically, the interest which attaches to the sugar industry in Queensland is that in fighting the battle of its own existence it fights the question of the development or non-development of the tropical portion of the Australian continent, with all the important issues that are involved. Actually, it has another interest of a more immediate and practical character. It offers at the present moment a field for the employment of English labor, intelligence, and capital, such as is rarely presented by agricultural enterprise, and the opportunity appears to me one that ought not to be missed for want of knowledge of existing conditions.

"The old system of sugar cultivation concentrated all the interests in a few hands. The same man was planter, millowner, and manufacturer. Cultivation was expensive, manufacture unscientific, and mill-owning often supremely unbusinesslike. For a time prices were so high that nothing mattered ; sugar was looked upon as a golden harvest for which men had only to scatter seed in order to be richly rewarded. There was a transition period in which speculative capital was largely invested. Then came the darkness of adversity. Prices fell, estates purchased in expectation of old values were found to be immensely over-capitalised ; the uncertainties of colonial labor legislation, added to all the other difficulties with which embarrassed planters were endeavoring to deal, proved too much for the system, and the sugar industry went more or less literally through the bankruptcy court.

From the public point of view the result has not been altogether regrettable. Individuals were ruined ; the industry has benefited. It has been brought out of the fantastic region of an El Dorado and set solidly upon its feet on the sober ground of remunerative enterprise.

"It has been recognised that planting can be carried on much more economically upon a small scale than it can upon a large scale, while manufacture is better and more profitable with the resources of a considerable capital at command. The usual proportion of labor to land on a plantation of 1,000 acres is one kanaka to every five acres, while a farmer holding 100 acres

will employ only ten kanakas, or one to every ten acres. The labor bill is at once reduced 50 per cent., and the expensive item of supervision is altogether abolished, with the result that the farmer can afford to sell cane to the mill more cheaply than the mill-owner can grow it for himself. At the same time, ten men are holding land which, under the old system, was held by the planter alone. Economically and politically, the system has such definite advantages that the only matter for surprise is that they have not been recognised before. On the other hand, the improvements of modern machinery and the benefits which have been found to result from the substitution of scientific methods for the rough-and-ready ways of rule-of-thumb manufacture have created a position in which the small owner has no place. Badly-made sugar is more than expensive; it is ruinous, for it cannot possibly command a price in competition with a superior quality which has been more cheaply produced. But a mill which contains the expensive machinery and employs the expensive labor rendered absolutely essential by the new methods does not pay unless it turns out more sugar than could be readily grown on even a very large estate. Both causes are working towards the same effect. The planter and mill-owner who grew all his own cane and made all his own sugar is becoming a figure of the past, and the principle of small growers and large mill-owners is accepted as the basis of future success. From end to end of the sugar district the transition is working itself out in different ways. At Bundaberg the Millaquin Refinery, which is one of the largest and most complete mills in Queensland, works entirely upon juice bought from the neighboring farmers and pumped into the mill from tanks fed by many miles of underground pipes. So do other mills still further South. The disadvantage of this system is that it leaves the very important item of crushing still in the hands of the unscientific farmer. The mill protects itself to some extent by paying for no juice that it does not receive; but if the application of better methods of crushing will bring, as in some instances they have been found to do, 20 per cent. more juice out of the cane, it is evident that scientifically-crushed cane juice ought to be one-fifth cheaper, *plus* the price of the more elaborate process. For this reason central mills prefer to buy the cane itself and keep the whole of its manipulation in their own hands. In the North, on the cleared scrub land of the Herbert River, *the system of small farming is in full activity*. Here selectors, living upon 160-acre Government lots, are growing cane with great success for the neighboring mills. Amongst several, into whose accounts I went with some care, I found that the man who was least well off had

SUGAR CANE.

cleared 100 acres of land, of which 70 acres were under cane, and that he was making an income of about £800 a year, with working expenses of £500. He had started originally as a ploughman, without any capital, and, in addition to his land, now possesses a very good two-storied house and all the horses and implements necessary to the cultivation of his farm. The others were in a very similar position, with incomes varying up to £1,500 and working expenses to £1,000. . . . .

"Accepting as the first axiom of the industry that, unless sugar-growing can give a profit to all there will be no profit for any, it remains to find out what profit may be fairly looked for by the different classes engaged in it. I divide them into three—the manufacturer, the gentleman farmer, and the peasant proprietor. The manufacturer and the farmer, it must be understood, are both of them employers of colored labor, though the manufacturer employs white labor in by far the larger proportion. The peasant proprietor represents only his own labor and the labor of his family. Colored races not being allowed to own land in the colony, the peasant who grows up on freehold land must be necessarily white. Chinamen and kanakas are, however, growing sugar on a small scale on leasehold, and on the Burdekin especially the knowledge of irrigation possessed by Chinamen renders them apt in adopting the new methods of cultivation. Economically speaking, the relation of colored labor to the industry is the same as the relation of machinery to other manufactures, and the agitation against it, which is maintained by the Labor party on the assumption that the introduction of colored laborers deprives the white workmen of employment, is an almost exact parallel of the agitation against the introduction of machinery into England in the beginning of the century. I do not wish, saying this, to seem to ignore the fact that there is an opposition conducted upon much higher grounds, which protests, for social and political reasons, against the introduction of a servile race into a self-governing colony, whose institutions are founded upon a basis of popular representation. But, leaving the moral aspect of the question for the moment on one side, the figures which have been placed at my disposal show, I think, pretty conclusively, that no one has in a material sense more to gain from the development of the sugar industry than the white labor. . . .

"The smallest lot from which subsistence for the grower and any margin of profit can be drawn is 20 acres. Even this is too much for a single man to cultivate, and it will not repay him if he hires white assistance. A married man with an active wife and four or five children, ranging up to the ages of twelve and thirteen, has all that he can do with 40 acres. The North Eton millowners let land under three different sorts of leases. One is that the farmer shall get market price for all his cane and pay £1 an acre for the land—market price being at present 13s. a ton. Under the second form of lease the farmer contracts to sell all his cane at 10s. 6d. a ton, and the difference between 10s. 6d. and the market price is accepted as a royalty in the place of rent. The third form of lease is for scrub land, where the crops are heavy and a royalty of 1s. per ton of cane is accepted instead of rent. Under all these leases the owner of the land will advance the money required for preliminary expenses, and take payment out of the crop when it is ripe. . . .

CANE-FIELD AND SCRUB, NORTH QUEENSLAND.

"The sugar industry in Queensland offers very great advantages alike to millowners, farmers, and labourers. It has impressed me, in travelling over the 1,000 miles or so of coast throughout which the plantations are distributed, that these advantages have been hardly realized as yet except by the scattered groups of individuals who are at different points reaping the benefit of them. Even the sugar industry itself appears as a whole to be half unconscious of the results of the reorganisation through which it has passed, and lies, as it were, *still asleep in the dawn of its own prosperity*. The fact is not altogether surprising when the immense distances which divide the centres of cultivation are taken into account. Everyone has not the time to travel 1,000 miles in order to make himself acquainted with the results of his neighbors' work, and the small farmer of the Herbert and the Barron is almost as ignorant as a Londoner of what is being done in Bundaberg and Mackay. But this unconsciousness will not last. Plantations now are thinly scattered up and down the coast like seed sown over a wide field. It seems inevitable that the wealth which a sugar settlement can develop will come soon to be a matter of general recognition. When it does, plantations must begin to multiply themselves, and, the movement of expansion once started, there is no reason to assign any limit to it other than that set by the requirements of the world's market. Nor can there be much question that the successful cultivation of sugar carried on under a system which gives employment to so many hands and settles such a proportionately large population on the soil will bring in its train the cultivation of other tropical crops. All the resources of a new country are here at command. In the Cairns District alone, where at present the plantations, including those on the Johnstone and the Herbert, could be counted on the fingers of two hands, there are not less than 2,500 square miles of tropical scrub which wait to be cleared. Much of this as it stretches inland towards the rich mineral district of Herberton is covered with cedar, of which the timber value alone is not easy to estimate. Single specimen trees have been known to yield 20,000 superficial feet, and 7,000 is an ordinary measurement. They average, generally, 600 superficial feet to the ton, and large quantities wait only for the country to be opened in order to be put upon the market. Besides these there are many kinds of pine, and the silky-oak and the bean-tree are also valuable. On the Burdekin, at Mackay, at Bundaberg and south of it there exist large quantities of virgin land. The climate, especially as it leaves the region of heavy rainfall and gets towards the South, though hot, is not unhealthy. The inhabitants of Mackay even claim for their climate that it is one of the most delightful in the world. Nothing appears to be wanted for the development of the country but labor and capital. If these are allowed to come in unimpeded by prohibitive legislation, the future can be scarcely doubtful. At present, as one of the successful planters observed to me, the colony is suffering chiefly from too much fatness of land and no people to use it. Upon the coast alone vegetation runs riot over vast areas of fertile soil, where a population as thick as the population of Egypt might subsist."

Since the publication of this correspondent's letter, the Queensland legislature has passed an Act which removes all danger of the area under cane over-taxing the country's milling power. In many cases

ISIS CENTRAL SUGAR MILL, 122 MILES NORTH OF BRISBANE.

the small growers have combined, and with Government assistance, have erected mills which are worked on the co-operative principle. The legislature, recognizing the value of such a system, passed an Act to enable groups of small freeholders to obtain an advance on the security of their land for the erection of a sugar factory. In all eleven mills have been erected, or are in course of erection, on this principle, at a cost of £301,803, which gives an average of £27,436 each, and have been worked most successfully, the shareholders having paid interest and redemption charges

HAULING SUGAR-CANE TO THE MILL.

punctually, and in many instances considerably in anticipation of their due date. The small cane-grower is not, as a rule, an employer of kanakas. He finds that with the labor of himself and family, and the assistance he gets from neighbors in return for like good offices on his part, he is able to keep a patch of 20 to 40 acres clean and healthy. He keeps the horse scarifier going between the rows till the crop has shaded the ground to the exclusion of the weeds, and for the operations of cutting and carting to the mill he employs a few hands during the busy season. A well grown crop of cane will realize from £20 to £30 per acre.

Of other tropical and semi-tropical crops maize and sweet potatoes are largely grown, farmers of late years giving more attention to feeding these crops to pigs and thus hardening the latter for bacon. There are several bacon factories which are large buyers of pigs suitable for curing, and which turn out hams and bacon not to be surpassed by the English article. The amount of bacon cured during 1895 was 4,941,512lb.

The artificial generation of cold has been of great service in all industries requiring a specially low temperature, and butter-making and bacon-curing have now assistance in this direction when the season requires it. Dairying is yearly becoming a more important department of farming life. Of late years owners of milking herds have awakened to the benefit to be derived from breeding specially for milk-giving qualities, and importations of the best Jersey, Alderney, and Ayrshire blood have from time to time been made. Creameries have been established in most farming centres, the milk being bought from the farmers and the butter forwarded by rail to market. There are, of course, many dairymen who prefer working their own cream separators, but the majority sell their milk to the public factory, and are very satisfied with results. In the dairying industry there is still, however, room for great improvement. The absence of rigorous winters and the excellence of the natural pastures have combined to make things easy for the dairyman and retard the more scientific pursuit of his calling.

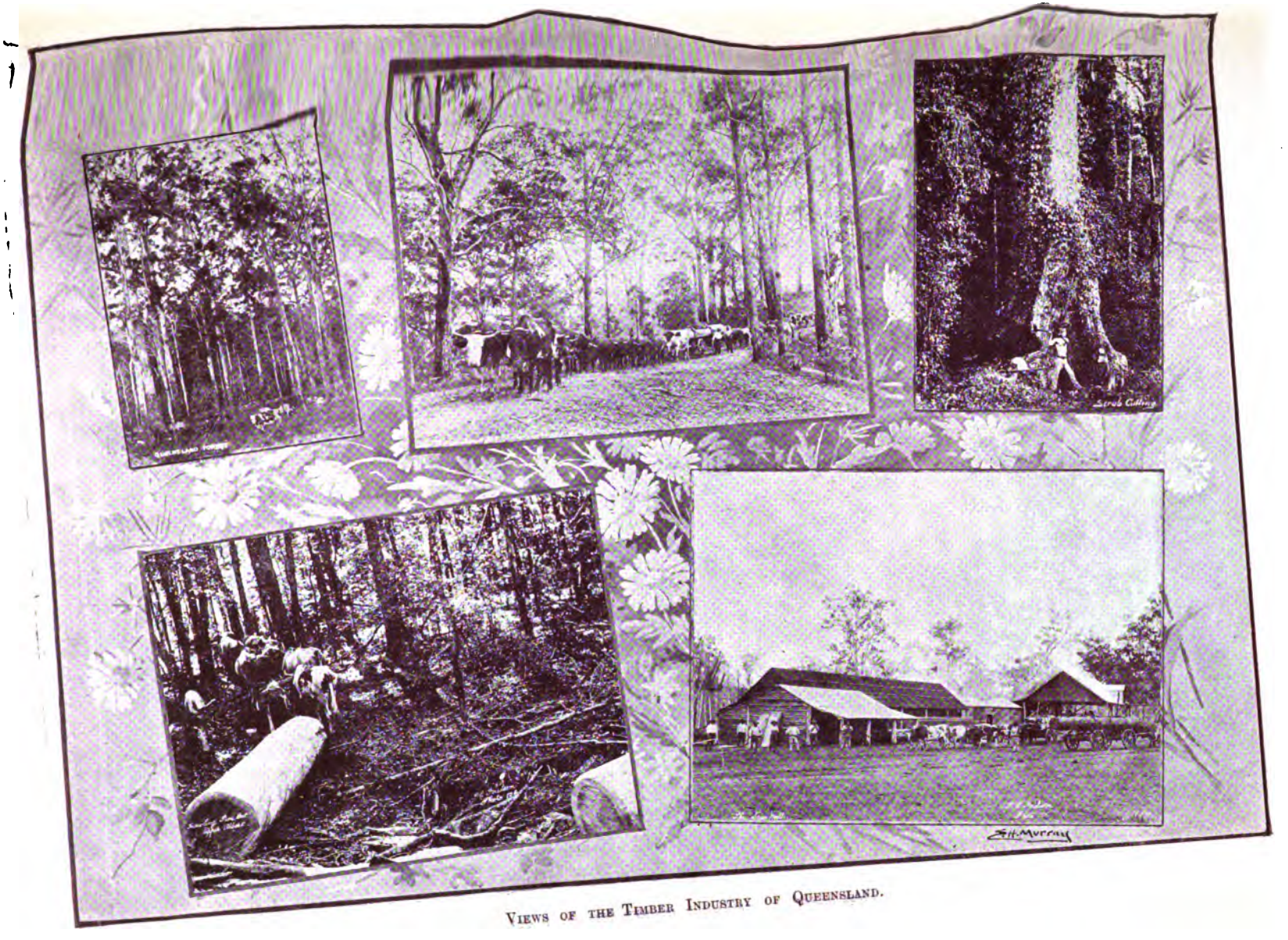
Till quite recently—within the last three or four years—any profit from the dairy on a Queensland farm was regarded as the perquisite of the wife or daughter, ribbon-money not to be seriously taken into account in any estimate of ways and means. The farmer has now awakened to the fact that dairying is a most important branch of his business, and that as the manufacture of butter tends more and more to become an industry distinct from ordinary farming, the production of milk invites and well repays his serious attention. This awakening is due to the efforts of the Government to enlighten the farmer regarding the scientific processes of the modern system. A Department of Agriculture was established and instructors were sent about the country to point out the faulty methods of agriculture generally and to explain how they could be amended. Travelling dairies went through the farming centres in charge of competent experts who gave practical illustrations of butter and cheese-making on a scientific basis. Then followed the establishment of factories which, as their business expanded, set up branch creameries to extend their operations over wider areas, where the milk was bought from the farmers. In the market two classes of butter came to be quoted, "farmer's butter" and "factory butter;" the preference accorded to the latter completed the conversion of the farmer to the modern system. In some districts the farmers have now combined and erected a factory themselves, which they run on the co-operative principle, and all are turning their attention to the increase and improvement of their milking herd. There is, however, still room for large reform. It is found that if cows are housed and fed in the winter, far more profitable results are obtained, yet not one in fifty is willing to take the necessary trouble. Crops preserved in silos are scarcely known, nor are the milking herds weeded of the inferior animals. The production of butter and cheese, in consequence, is barely enough for home supply, but the methods are daily improving, and when it is found that the best are the most profitable, they are sure, in the long run, to be adopted.

Queenslanders, apparently, are very moderate butter-eaters. Mr. Thornhill Weedon, in his excellent statistical work, *Queensland, Past and Present*, tells us: "In Queensland the demand for butter, as compared to the population, is not very great, and is below that of either the United Kingdom, the United States, or Canada. No doubt the uncertainty which has obtained in the past, both as to price and quality, has operated in keeping the consumption down. For 1895 the consumption per capita was 10½lbs. There is no doubt that butter will, at an early date, form an important item of export, and the United Kingdom will prove the chief market, and as it is one for which there will ever be a keen competition, so it will be imperative that the article exported shall be of the very best quality. Denmark is at present the principal source of supply, and the exports from that country in 1895 amounted to 130,000,000lbs.

"The consumption of cheese of any kind is very small, only about 4½lbs per inhabitant. The better quality of the article now made and the more reasonable price at which it can be obtained are gradually increasing the demand for the local article, which in 1895 comprised more than 90 per cent of the total consumption, so that cheese will, no doubt, soon be added to Queensland exports."

On the eastern side of the main range from the mountains to the sea the greater portion of the country was originally heavily timbered. In many localities, of course, settlement has completely changed the face of Nature, and open paddocks have replaced the "verdurous glooms" of the past; yet there still remain thousands of square miles of forest full of valuable timbers. Little attention has been paid to this source of wealth till of late, the forest having been regarded as a hindrance to the ordinary occupations of a settler, to be removed in the easiest fashion by felling and burning. The absence of convenient waterways prevented the general recognition of the value of trees as lumber, and hardwood giants that took fifty years to mature were reduced to ash in as many hours. Nor has the value of the Australian hardwoods been recognised in Europe so readily as their qualities merit. The extraordinary strength and durability of the varieties of the eucalypti, bloodwood, ironbark, blue gum, red gum, &c., are at length being appreciated, and it seems probable that the streets of European cities will in the future be paved to a large extent by the products of Australian forests.

The red cedar has always been regarded as marketable if at all accessible. These beautiful trees generally grow in mountain scrubs, from which the timbergetter can only hope to haul them to some precipitous creek or gully, looking to the first heavy rainfall to flood the watercourse and carry the logs on to some larger waterway where it is possible to raft them. It thus not infrequently happens that a party of timbergetters may be surrounded with the unrealisable wealth of several years of toil which patience may enable them to get to market, but which, in case of a miscalculation in hydraulics, may be destined to rot where it lies. The logs are all branded and the collection of them after a heavy flood is an anxious business, many escaping to sea never to be recovered. Besides the red cedar and pencil cedar, the scrubs grow other beautiful woods of great variety which cabinet-makers are tardily turning to account, such as the bean-tree, tulip and yellow-wood. The myall, growing on the western plains, is also a very ornamental timber with a scent of violets which endures always. The silky oak furnishes excellent staves for the cooper, and the tanner finds the bark of the wattle admirably suited for



VIEWS OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY OF QUEENSLAND.

his pit. As in 1895 there were in Queensland 38 tanneries employing altogether 353 hands, there is a good local market for wattle bark. The produce of these tanneries for the year was 35,593 cwt. of leather of a value of £159,580.

Sounds are not plentiful in the Australian forest, but there is one pretty sure to be heard by anyone who journeys there for a day. A sharp report ruffles the stillness like a pistol shot. This is the bullock-driver's whip. Long after the first distant crack is heard the familiar shouts and equally familiar objurgations to Bally and Bluey and Spot announce that the bullock-team approaches, and in due course the patient team appear, plodding slowly along, bending their necks to the yoke, the waggon piled with logs and followed by one or two loose horses with bells on their necks. Before sundown the driver and his mate will unyoke and light their camp fire, the team wandering off to fill themselves on the succulent grass before lying down for the night, by which time their driver and his mate will be sleeping in their hammocks under the waggon, lulled by the pleasant jangle of the bullocks' bells. In the morning one of them will round up the bullocks whilst the other prepares breakfast, after which the team will be yoked and a start made about 9 o'clock. About 8 miles is the ordinary day's journey, though in case of necessity this can be doubled.

PIT-SAWING, BLACKALL RANGES.

FRUIT-GROWING.

Fruit-growing enjoys considerable attention, the most important branch of the industry, having regard to its certain future extension, being the vineyard. The soil and climate of Queensland has proved excellently adapted to the growth of the grape, and the quality of the wine produced from grapes grown on the western side of the range is now fully recognised. Farmers have to a large extent given up wine-making, and sell the produce of their vines to a few leading vignerons who bring the grapes in some cases as far as 300 miles by rail. This system ensures a more scientific treatment of the juice, and results in the wine being kept till maturity instead of being placed on the market in an unfit condition. Wines of the Hock and Sauterne quality, though rather fuller-bodied than the product of the Rhine, are very palatable and refreshing, and people who favour temperance rather than abstinence, look to the time when the wines of the country shall replace the more ardent stimulants now too largely consumed. It is generally remarked, however, that drunkenness is not a vice of the Australian native. The hard drinking in the colonies is done by the Englishmen, Irishmen and Scotchmen, the native of the soil having little inclination to this failing.

Bananas and pineapples are extensively grown and exported to the Southern Colonies. Oranges are also produced in

great perfection, the whole citrus family finding a congenial habitat in Queensland. Many other fruits have been introduced and actively disseminated by the Acclimatisation Society, so that mangoes, Chinese date plums, guavas of all sorts, custard apples, and other varieties are now found in abundance in most gardens.

To the rural population of the British Isles, Queensland probably appears "a far way." Yet six weeks of travel by an interesting route, enlivened by glimpses of strange lands, suffice for the journey. For some few years past the colony has spent little in State-aided immigration, though it is freely admitted that more people is the chief want of a country so favored by Nature in the resources required to support a large population.

The facilities for reaching Queensland are ample, as in addition to the various and well-known steamship companies running to the other colonies—most of which book their passengers through to Brisbane at the same rate—there is the Queensland Royal Mail Line, leaving London every four weeks for Queensland direct, and calling at the various ports down its extensive coastline, thus giving passengers the choice and option of landing either at Cooktown, Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Maryborough, or Brisbane. The steerage or third-class rate by this line of steamers has now been fixed at £12. All information as to date of sailing can be obtained of Messrs. Gray, Dawes, and Co. (address, 23 Great Winchester street, London), or of the numerous local shipping agents in the provinces, while any information as to the colony can be obtained by the intending emigrant from the Agent-General for Queensland, Westminster Chambers, 1 Victoria street, London, S.W.

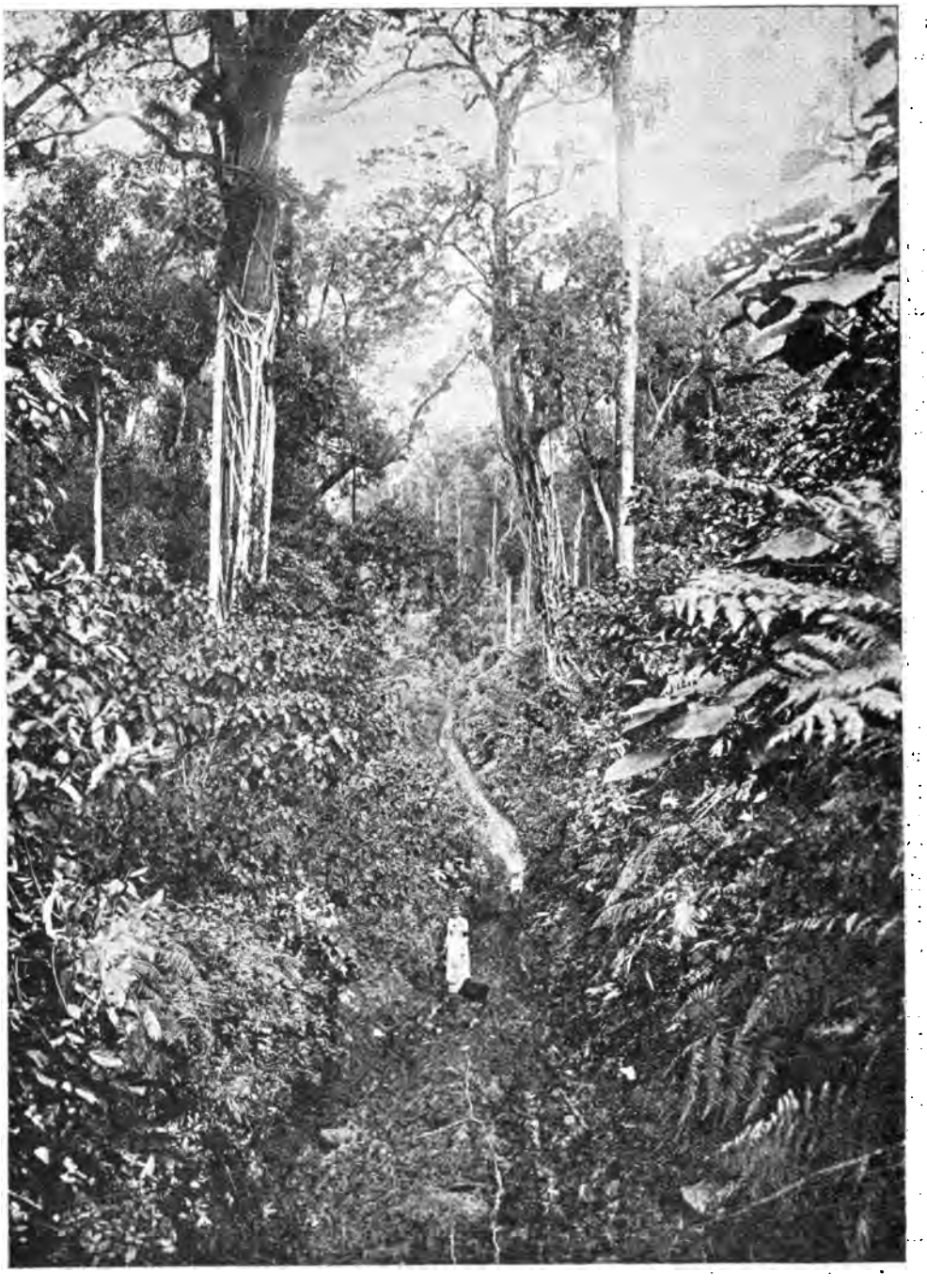
PINEAPPLE FIELD.

A colonist, who has prospered, is generally desirous of inviting some relative to

try a field which has proved successful in his own case. The desirability of encouraging the thrifty man to nominate others whom he wishes to follow him to the colony has been fully recognised, and provision made to enable him to accomplish this. Colonists desirous of availing themselves of this means of bringing out their friends and relatives can do so by applying to the Immigration Agent in Brisbane, or to any Clerk of Petty Sessions in the district where the nominator resides, and passages are in this way obtained at about one-third and less than half the full cost, according to age or sex of the parties nominated. Persons arriving in this way as nominated immigrants are naturally looked after immediately on landing by the friends who have sent for them, or if these latter reside up country, they usually make arrangements for their journey to join them. It is important to other classes of passengers to know that at each of the principal port towns there are resident immigration agents, who may be looked upon as friendly advisers and who will place the new arrival in touch with the Lands and Agricultural Departments. The immigration agents will also be in the best possible position to give reliable information as to work and wages throughout their districts, should it be the object of the new arrival to secure employment. If desiring to do so, passengers may on landing make use of the Government depôts, where they will obtain food and shelter for a short time free of charge. Numbers of employers are on the look-out for their arrival, and, as a rule, after the lapse of a few days none of the new comers are found lingering in Government quarters. Should the immigrant wish to go into the country and shift for himself, a free railway pass is given.

The first impression of a new arrival from the British Isles is a comforting sense of not having landed in a foreign country. Although amongst strangers, the customs, speech, and behaviour of the people are familiar. No peculiarities of dialect have been developed as in America, and an ordinary Queensland crowd, except in containing a far smaller proportion of the residuum of society, does not perceptibly differ from a gathering at the old home of the Empire. The habits and pastimes of the old country have been so successfully transplanted that the complaint is freely urged against Australians generally that they allow all forms of athletic sports—cricket, football, racing, rowing—to engage an undue share of their attention. The climate is mainly responsible for this, a bright sky inviting to open-air life.

Life in any of the towns along the seaboard differs little in its condition from the town life led by so many thousands of average Britons in the old home. The whole community in Queensland are workers. As yet there is no class of what may be termed legitimate idlers—the *jeunesse dorée* of Europe—members of families which for many generations have regarded toil as the heritage of others. The habits of splendid idleness characteristic of this class are not acquired in one or two generations, and in Australia generally the millionaire and the mechanic find their days equally fully employed with their different avocations. The merchant and his clerks go to their office at 9 o'clock and, with an hour's intermission for the midday meal, remain there till half-past 5 or 6. The mechanic and the laborer commence their work at 8 o'clock, and in some occupations an hour earlier, but their hours of labor are strictly limited to eight, and in the cool of the evening trams and



QUEENSLAND SCRUB.

omnibuses will be seen crowded with men returning to their homes in the suburbs after the day's work; for in Queensland the suburban home is not the exclusive possession of the man of affluence. The first earnings of the wage-earner are usually devoted to the purchase of an allotment a mile or two outside the city, and the numerous building societies which compete for his patronage enable him to build a snug cottage, the payment for which extends over a long term. This custom has tended much to the promotion of thrifty habits, as, till the borrower has freed his home of debt, he is careful to lay aside the necessary sum to meet the monthly payment. All classes take a keen interest in the government of the country, and each has a voice in the choice of parliamentary representatives, the franchise being the right of every man who has resided in the electoral district for six months. Local self-government has fostered a spirit of healthy independence, municipal councils, elected by the ratepayers, having charge of all local expenditure. In the country the same work is done by Divisional Boards, who, in their respective districts, keep hundreds of miles of roads in order, build bridges, and construct any other requisite works, the revenues being derived from rates levied on the assessed value of property, supplemented by a proportional Government subsidy, which of late years has been reduced from 20s. to 6s. 8d. in the £ on the amount of rates levied. Queensland city life has nothing distinctive about it. The same entertainments which amuse a Londoner are provided for the residents of Australian cities. The pieces acted at the theatre and criticised by the local press have been previously dealt with by British journals, and the popularity of new operas or other music spreads over the colonies as quickly as the latest fashions in dress. The Australians are essentially a pleasure-loving people, and catering for their amusement amply repays *entrepreneurs*.

SPORTING.

It is not till the new arrival gets away into the bush that he realizes that he "holds his head to other stars and breathes in converse seasons." The forest is full of strange trees and the sounds of birds are unfamiliar. The sweet songsters of the English meadows and hedgerows he will undoubtedly miss, but he will find a compensation for the loss of their voices in the many novelties which awaken his interest. With the great grey marsupial, rearing itself on hind legs and tail to look at him, with its gentle timid face he is already probably familiar, the kangaroo being a striking specimen in so many zoological collections of the Northern Hemisphere. If the observer has a strong dog with him and is fairly mounted he may look for half an hour's excitement before he amputates that huge caudal appendage for to-morrow's soup. The strong cord-like sinews, which give the tail its power, impart a glutinous quality to the soup made from it which is most palatable and nutritious. The fragrant mimosa scents the air. Great eucalypts spread their huge arms overhead, giving but a scanty shade, however, with their narrow hard leaves, and among them, like a flash, dart bright plumaged paroquets, while high over their topmost boughs a flock of white cockatoos go screaming homewards to some distant scrub. If our visitor carries a gun he will probably be attracted to the creek,

VIEW FROM CAMP OVEN CREEK, CAIRNS RAILWAY LINE.

the course of which is indicated by the dark ti-trees and other shady foliage marking its serpentine course. Wild fowl abound on all these waters, black duck, teal and widgeon, the delicious little pigmy goose and the stately black swan, though the last named is more often met with on the swamps and large open lagoons than in sheltered creeks. Supposing our visitor approaching the creek noiselessly to secure a murderous discharge into some bank of duck, we can imagine him suddenly arrested in his advance to watch, with wondering curiosity, the antics of the little denizens of the pool. Swimming about and emerging to dive quickly in again are several little

A QUEENSLAND SCHOOLHOUSE.

creatures not much larger than an English mole, with dense fur and a duck's bill. This is one of Nature's greatest curiosities, the platypus, the link connecting the marsupials with the reptiles. The duck, meanwhile, have sprung into the air before he has recovered from his astonishment, and after wheeling once or twice have made for their night feeding grounds in the neighboring marsh. Hither, probably, our sportsman is also attracted, and, standing hidden among the reeds to await the flight time, when the wild fowl will come in rapid detachments to their feeding ground, he is able to admire the great native companion—a stork five feet high with dove-colored body and red head—as he wades along the margin in search of frogs, or the pelican as he glides in slow circles over the lagoon which forms a centre to the marsh, in quest of his evening meal of fish. If our traveller has gone out to the great western plains, other strange sights will interest him. For miles in every direction the great prairie heaves in gentle undulations, richly clad with the deep-rooting grasses which alone are capable of withstanding the rainless months experienced every year. A couple of miles away a line of eight or nine black dots apprise him that a flock of emus are in sight. If he is without a stout dog it is not much use to gallop after them, but, being a new arrival, he is sure to put his horse into a canter and prepare for the chase. The emu's chief weakness is curiosity, and the birds will run round uneasily as he approaches, stopping now and then to regard his movements with a timid uncertainty. If he reins in and stands motionless they will probably circle round him with great swiftness, coming within twenty or thirty yards, so that he can see the startled expression of their large dark eye and admire the wonderful grace of their movements, before they finally turn and continue their flight beyond the horizon. As he rides along he will see the plain turkey or Australian bustard, warily watching him as it sidles away through the grass or spreads its great wings to look for grasshoppers at a safer distance. This bird is excellent eating, and weighs as much as 20lbs. It is in great abundance on the western plains. The scrubs on the coast side of the range also yield the sportsman excellent bags of great variety. There are many varieties of pigeons, the wonga and

the gorgeous painted pigeon being the most prized. As our sportsman pushes his way through the thick tangle of undergrowth and creepers he is possibly surprised to come upon a freshly made mound four or five feet in height, and from fifteen to twenty feet in circumference. His first impression may be that in this tumulus reposes some native chief, his bow and spear beside him, secluded in death from a civilization so fatal to his race. He will be astonished to learn that this is a bird's nest. The scrub turkey, an excellent table bird, rather smaller than the fowl-yard specimen, constructs this great mound in which to deposit its eggs, which are hatched by the sun. Strange forms of life are interesting to any observer, but doubly so to the naturalist and man of science, and such will find in Queensland an entrancing field of investigation. The sportsman will find ample opportunity of indulging his taste. Quail in great numbers are found at certain seasons when the seeding grass is ripe, and large bags are made, and periodically great whisps of snipe from some northern latitude, probably the Malay Peninsula, drop into the low wet grounds where they remain till winter, growing so fat that it is not uncommon for the skin of the breast to burst when they fall to the gun. Yet the colonists have not been content with the abundant game provided by nature. Hares have been imported, which have thriven so well on the Darling Downs that they are now regarded by farmers as rather a nuisance, and have to be kept down rigorously. So strong do they grow that the powers of a good greyhound to kill one single-handed are rather unduly taxed. The annual coursing meeting, which is held in the neighborhood where Patrick Leslie squatted fifty-six years ago, evokes as much interest as the famous contest on the Altcar meadows for the Waterloo Cup.

In any essay treating of Australian life, something more than a passing allusion is due to the devotion to sport which is such a striking characteristic of Australians. This sentiment is far more pronounced and universal in Australia than in the old country. In England the amusement of the many which is the passion of the few, is viewed with indifference by the majority. In Australia the converse holds good, the indifferent being a very small minority. It is this earnestness which constitutes such a radical difference between an Australian and an English race meeting. At the former there are no holiday loungers who look upon the outing merely as a picnic. The whole multitude is as deeply interested in the various contests to be decided as a Yorkshire crowd at Doncaster, and by far the larger number have some pecuniary interest in the result. Race meetings are held wherever the settlers can congregate, and in Queensland this is the ordinary celebration of a holiday in all bush towns.

The Queensland Turf Club is the premier racing club, and the Club's racing track, stands and appointments at Eagle Farm, four miles from the capital, would be a credit to any racing institution in the world. A branch railway drops passengers at the racecourse gates. There is a separate racing association for Northern Queensland, whose headquarters is Charters Towers. In the more remote districts of the West, "grass-fed" meetings have taken the place of the ordinary fixtures, as it was found that a man travelling round with a couple of highly-trained horses could attend a number of bush meetings and scoop the pool at each, the ordinary bushman's half-trained animal having no chance under such unequal conditions. Mainly to

Victoria Bridge, Brisbane.

frustrate this sporting vagabond, "grass-fed" meetings were instituted, the conditions being that all the horses competing are handed over to one paddock-keeper for a month prior to the meeting, and are not given back to their owners till a week before the races. They are all run in the same paddock, the key of which is held by some official of the club. This system has resulted in larger fields, as the heavy expense of corn feeding is avoided, and although "time" is not so good, the interest in the contests and rivalries between local stables has increased. An English trainer may wonder how horses can be asked to do a mile and a-half on grass-feeding. But the western grasses of Queensland, the Mitchell grass and blue grass, cured as they are by constant sunshine, are entirely different to the sappy growth of the coast, being really as good feed as oaten hay. Such provender hardens a horse almost like corn feeding. Many of these animals fed on western pastures travel 70 and 80 miles a day for several days in succession, being merely turned in a paddock to fill themselves when the day's journey is done.

Racing in the metropolis or in any of the more important centres differs little from the sport as known in England, the most noticeable difference being, as we have said, the greater intentness of the colonials on the business in progress. A bush town on a race day, however, affords a novel experience to a visitor from the Northern Hemisphere. For days before the event not a room is available in any of the hotels unless bespoken weeks beforehand. Shakedowns are prepared in every nook and cupboard, and at night the verandahs are transformed into general dormitories. From early morning of the eventful day the residents of the district—which comprises probably a radius of fifty miles or more—gather in. Those who come long distances usually drive four horses, a station hand riding behind with a spare team trotting along loose in front of him. Many more arrive in buggies and pairs. These are mostly the neighboring squatters, station managers and grazing farmers. But the main crowd, the small selectors with their wives and daughters, the stockmen, shearers and others, are on horseback. Everyone is interested in some equine representative of his immediate neighborhood, whose final gallop he has either witnessed himself or heard of from the owner. Budgeree Station has a well-known breed of horses descended from New Warrior mares, and every stockman on the place has

RACECOURSE, QUEENSLAND TURF CLUB, BRISBANE.

entered something for several events; but the Panic blood of the Banbingo Station is held to excel in staying qualities, so the Banbingo hands hear with smiling satisfaction of the confidence of the other stable. Rumor, too, is very busy about dark horses. There is a shearer on Wellawin who brought a good-looking colt into the district that he bought down south. "He's entered him for the big money, and Jem Smith, who is a judge of pace, says he's terrible fast." These are the sort of vague but disquieting rumors which cause the Budgeree and Banbingo factions some uneasiness. The night before the races Calcutta sweeps are held at the leading hotel, and nothing is thought of but the morrow's carnival. The racing is well managed, the stewards being local men of good repute and influence, the solitary constable represses disorder, and the festivities invariably wind up with a ball.

Hunting, as nearly after the English pattern as circumstances will permit, is also entered into with much zest. Several hunt clubs have been started in different towns in Queensland, but have usually survived only a few years, the expense of maintaining the pack and requisite establishment proving in the end too exhausting for a limited number of members. The Brisbane Hunt Club, now unfortunately defunct, went through five or six seasons and provided excellent sport under its successive masters, Messrs. Gaun Echlin and Adolph Feez. The pack used to turn out every Saturday from May till September, with about 12 couple of hounds, the meet being at half-past 2 o'clock, somewhere within ten miles of town. No live quarry being available, they used to run a drag, and the field of five-and-twenty to thirty were as hard a riding lot as could be found anywhere. The fences are much more uncompromising than those of an English country, being all split posts and rails, from 4 feet to 4 feet 8 inches high, and generally solid as a granite wall. Over some fifty or sixty of these breakneck obstacles the hunt, including a sprinkling of ladies—three sisters being invariably amongst the followers—used to steeplechase for eight or ten miles every Saturday afternoon in the winter months. The winters are usually dry, and the ground consequently very hard, so that a fall was a bone-shaking experience, but although the record of the Brisbane Hunt Club was not devoid of serious accidents—two unhappily fatal — there were fewer than the severe character of the country would have led one to expect. But Australian horses are natural

GRAND STAND, QUEENSLAND TURF CLUB, BRISBANE.

jumpers, and soon get very clever over stiff fences.

In a country where the occupations of so many compel them to pass much of their time on horseback, it might be expected that polo would flourish vigorously. This game is very energetically played in all parts of Queensland, and the matches with representative teams from the other colonies cause the most lively interest. Almost any young bushman becomes quickly expert at the game, his experience on a cattle camp being the best possible training for it.

But of all games cricket is that which retains pre-eminence of interest. Max O'Rell noticed that when an Australian team was touring in England the news of their doings ranked in interest with colonial readers far beyond the most important items of European politics or other cabled intelligence. And this is really no exaggeration. The annual intercolonial matches are events in which the whole of Australia takes an absorbing interest, and when an English team visits the country, spectators of the game flock from the most distant portions of the continent, and regard defeat almost in the light of a national disaster.

Although in variety not equalling those found in British waters, fish are very plentiful on the Queensland coast. The schnapper, weighing from 5 to 20 lb., is generally the best esteemed. It is caught by line in fairly deep water off the islets and rocky promontories. During the prevailing westerly winds of winter, at which season the sea is smooth, a very favorite day's sport with Brisbane fishermen is for a party of ten or a dozen to hire a small steamer and start on the eve of a holiday for the fishing-grounds. Anchoring under Moreton Island for the night, the party soon after daybreak reach the neighborhood of the Flat Rock, a very prolific spot near the south entrance of Moreton Bay. All lines are out as the vessel drifts over the well-known patch, each line being armed with two and

HUNT CLUB MEET, NEAR BRISBANE.

THURSDAY ISLAND.

NEAR COLOSSEUM
E. H. Murray

often three hooks. The schnapper is very voracious, and as a school of fish pass they are hauled up literally by hundreds, it being no uncommon experience to have three fish at once on the same line. As the fish average from 7 to 10 lb., and a heavy sinker and good line have to be used, it will be readily understood that strength rather than skill commands success, the member of the party possessing the best physique usually securing the heaviest catch. It is an ordinary experience on the return of the steamer, if the weather has been favorable, to find the catch has totalled from twelve to fifteen hundred fish, the friends of the fishermen being generally in attendance on the wharf to share the spoil. During the winter months the sea mullet pass northwards along the coast in vast shoals, and are netted in great quantities in the various bays. The mullet is a beautiful fish, averaging from 3 to 4 lb. Whiting are very plentiful on all the sand-banks, and a very delicate little fish, the garfish, is also netted on the shoals of the bay waters. Rock cod, flathead, and numerous other varieties amply reward the salt water angler. The groper, a gigantic variety of the rock cod, is met with in bays and tidal waters, specimens having been frequently caught in the Brisbane River weighing from 2 to 3cwt. Rivers and creeks inland are well stocked with bream, perch, and Murray cod, the last-named being only found in western waters. In the lagoons eels of great size abound. The dugong, which inhabits the bays along the coast, is caught in strong nets. Its flesh is very palatable, resembling veal, and when pickled is not easily detected from ordinary bacon. But its chief value is on account of the oil it yields, which, when refined, is a pure white tasteless liquid, possessing therapeutic qualities of a high order. Turtle are also caught, the numbers increasing northward, and most of the coasting steamers during the winter season have a number of these delicious reptiles flapping helplessly on their backs on the fore deck on their way to the hotels and restaurants of Sydney and Melbourne. Oysters are very plentiful and cheap, and are now carefully cultivated by individuals and companies, who lease the banks from the Government. A large quantity are exported to the southern colonies.

The pearl fisheries of Torres Straits constitute a prosperous industry, a large fleet of vessels with the requisite diving appliances finding constant and well rewarded employment in these waters. Thursday Island is the headquarters of the industry, and the divers employed are generally colored men. Accidents from searching for shell at dangerous depths are unhappily not infrequent, paralysis awaiting its victims in any depths over 20 fathoms. Besides the shell, for which there is a steady market, pearls of great value are occasionally obtained.

Queensland, as a field of enterprise, offers many inducements to various classes of immigrants. For the man of capital, whether large or small, there are innumerable opportunities for profitable investment, if he will be patient and acquire an accurate knowledge before embarking in any enterprise. The young man of education who leaves a comfortable home to push his fortunes, if he is active and steady, not afraid of hard work and able to rough it cheerfully, is sure to win his way. He probably goes on a station as a "jackeroo"—the name given to young men who are gaining station experience—and will be expected to lend a hand at any work going on. Sheep have to be brought to the shed, and he will be galloping round the paddock before the sun is up, gathering them together, and driving them slowly in. Or lambs have to be drafted from their mothers, and he stands all day working a swing gate in a race,

till the two living streams have flowed into separate yards. It is getting dusk, but the sheep must go out to their paddock, so instead of making himself presentable and passing the evening at the homestead, where ladies' society and music offer a pleasant relief from the day's labors, he swallows a hasty tea, saddles a horse, and takes the ewes to their paddock by starlight; or it is mustering time on a cattle station, and he is off at the first peep of dawn with several others to sweep the cattle on to their camps, and in the evening the distant cloud of dust, with faint cracking of whips, proclaim the return of the mob for branding. These consist of cows with their calves, and the next day will be devoted to working in the dust and heat of a stock-yard till the branding of the latter is completed. The "jackeroo," as a rule, finds a strange delight in the hard work which his mother would probably regard as utterly uncongenial to her boy, and when he has gained the necessary experience, he soon finds an opportunity to start on his own account.

To the man whose capital consists solely in his thews and sinews, who has been accustomed to work and is willing to take anything which may present itself, Queensland offers opportunities not easily found in these days of grinding competition. If careful and steady, there is no limit to the possibilities of his future. Many of Queensland's most successful men, who have not only accumulated great wealth but have won honorable positions in the State, have started from beginnings as humble as his; for in no other part of the globe can industry, honesty, and thrift look for richer rewards than in Queensland.

Queensland:

Pole, Outridge & Co., General Printers, Petrie's Bight, Brisbane.

1897.

Clark's Pearling Station, Goode Island, Torres Strait.

Pearling Fleet off Badu.

Diver in Dress.

Opening and Cleaning Shell.